



Connecticut

Testimony of Nora Duncan, AARP State Director, in support of & with recommendations to:
**Raised H.B. #7359: AN ACT CONCERNING A LESBIAN, GAY, BISEXUAL, TRANSGENDER AND QUEER
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES NETWORK.**

Human Services Committee, March 21, 2019

Dear Leaders and Members of the Human Services Committee:

AARP is a nonpartisan, social mission organization with an age 50+ membership of nearly 38 million nationwide, and nearly 600,000 here in Connecticut. AARP recognizes the need to ensure that the views and interests of all segments of the population – across race and ethnicity, gender, physical ability, sexual orientation, and gender identity – are reflected and included in our efforts to serve and advocate on behalf of the needs of our expansive membership and the age 50+ population at large.

AARP supports the legislation but also requests that “a designee of AARP CT” and an organization providing direct services/supports to older adults in community be included in the Network to ensure adequate representation of one of the largest demographic sectors of our state. By 2030 it is projected that 25% of our residents will be age 60+ and here is why my request is so important:

- There are an estimated 3 million older LGBTQ Americans
- By 2030 the estimated number of older LGBTQ Americans is projected to reach 7 million
- About 33% of older adults live alone, yet 75% of older LGBTQ adults live alone
- About 20% of older adults have no children, yet 90% of older LGBTQ adults have no children
- Nearly 50% of older LGBTQ adults have a disability
- Nearly 33% of older LGBTQ adults report depression
- Nearly 50% of older LGBTQ adults report feeling isolated from others
- Older LGBTQ adults are more likely to be caregivers than their heterosexual counterparts
- About 20% of LGBTQ adults avoid medical care out of fear of discrimination

OPEN INVITE:

As referenced in the *Out In CT* article attached with my testimony, AARP CT utilizes the film *Gen Silent* as part of our LGBTQ outreach. *Gen Silent* shares the stories of LGBT older adults dealing with the challenges & hopes of growing older. This landmark film has inspired a movement of advocates to create safe & welcoming experiences for older adults & caregivers. A free screening and dinner is being hosted by the New Milford Senior Center and CT Community Foundation on **4/25/19 at 5:00 p.m.**
Register: <https://aarp.cvent.com/GenSilent425>

I can be reached at nduncan@aarp.org or 860-548-3161.