

Aging Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: HB-6170

Title: AN ACT INCREASING FUNDING FOR AGING IN PLACE INITIATIVES.

Vote Date: 2/20/2019

Vote Action: Joint Favorable

PH Date: 2/14/2019

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Aging Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

The bill increases the funding for Aging in Place initiatives. Organizations have testified that the majority of seniors in the state prefer to remain in their own homes as long as possible, but many anticipate that they will not be able to do so because they will not be able to afford it.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

None Submitted for Proposed Bill No. 6170

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

AARP – Connecticut: Testified that they support the concept of the bill. The organization stated that investing in home and community based services will make it easier for seniors to stay in their own homes as they age. AARP also testified about the economic benefits, stating that the services that are provided in a home setting are much less expensive than those provided in Aging institutions. They testified that seniors have also expressed job opportunities, affordable housing, and health care facilities were important community features among others to them.

Win Heimer, Executive Vice President, Connecticut Alliance for Retired Americans: Mr. Heimer testified that CT has a significant senior population, which is expected to grow, and that Aging in Place initiatives make life safer and more comfortable and could potentially keep more seniors from leaving Connecticut. Mr. Heimer also testified about the need for more

funds for the Department of Rehabilitation Services and the Department of Social Services, in order to help with the expansion of independent living programs.

State Senator Tony Hwang: Sen. Hwang testified about the expensive cost of institutional care for both seniors and the state, and how most seniors prefer to stay in their own homes because it is less expensive and more comfortable. Sen. Hwang also testified that by investing state money in initiatives to allow seniors to live more independently, it will reduce costs to the state in the long run.

Mag Morelli, President, LeadingAge Connecticut: Ms. Morelli testified in strong support of the bill, stating that it supports the ability for seniors to choose to stay in their own homes, and believes that it will allow for a more efficient and effective care system.

Peaches C. Quinn, President, Connecticut Coalition on Aging: Ms. Quinn testified that she strongly supports the bill and Aging in Place programs and initiatives for seniors. Ms. Quinn also expressed disappointment with the elimination of certain resources for Aging such as the CT Commission on Aging and the State Department on Aging, and stated that it has weakened any ability to change the policies and conditions concerning Aging.

Linda Ziac, Owner and Founder, The Caregiver Resource Center, Greenwich, CT: The Caregiver Resource Center submitted a brochure stressing the importance of developing an "Aging Action Plan" to help seniors remain safe in their homes.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None Expressed. For Proposed Bill No. 6170

**Reported by: Gaia McDermott, Clerk
Avarice Jacovino, Assistant Clerk**

Date: 2/27/2019