



Insurance and Real Estate Committee

March 18, 2021

Testimony of Bob Rodman, AARP Volunteer in Support of
S.B. 1046, An Act Concerning Long-Term Care Insurance

Good afternoon, Chairs, Ranking Members, and Members of the Insurance and Real Estate Committee. My name is Bob Rodman. I am an AARP volunteer from Avon. I have testified several times in recent years regarding my personal experience with long-term care insurance and my concern about being able to remain at home as I age. I would like to update and share these concerns again and express my support for S.B. 1046.

I currently make annual payments on two Long-Term Policies purchased in January 2002; one policy for my wife and one for myself. Total cost at the time of purchase was \$6,085.89/year for the both of us. Unfortunately, those same exact insurance policy annual premiums in 2021 will be \$17,681.68. The premium is becoming extraordinary as the years pass. What hasn't increased is Social Security, my Naval Reserve retirement or the flat modest pension I receive.

As expected these insurance premiums will continue to be a challenge to pay.

In April, I turn 89 and my wife turns 87. My wife has been confined to home because walking is now very difficult. I am her caregiver and having problems myself having made four trips to the hospital in the last three months. None of our three children live in Connecticut. Support comes from neighbors or paid-for services. Although I still don't own a rocking chair, I have gotten closer to needing it in the last three months. All this effort is just to be able to stay in our own home as we age.

I truly believe seniors should have the option to remain at home and live independently for as long as they choose.

This obviously requires a combination of family support, a strong safety net, caregiver friendly policies, and quality, affordable home care.

In evaluating S.B. 1046 and LTC insurance, please consider those whom the changes will likely benefit and the importance of helping families and older adults age in place. Thank you.