

Aging Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

Bill No.: SB-1024

Title: AN ACT CONCERNING A DEMENTIA SERVICES COORDINATOR.

Vote Date: 02/28/2023

Vote Action: Joint Favorable Substitute

PH Date: 2/21/2023

File No.:

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SPONSORS OF BILL:

Aging Committee

REASONS FOR BILL:

The bill will establish a Dementia Services Coordinator with the Dept of Aging and Disability Services effective 10/1/23.

The JFS language narrows the responsibility of this position to state agencies.

RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:

Dept. of Aging and Disability Services, Ms. Amy Porter, Commissioner: Their testimony was in **opposition** to this bill since they do not have the financial resources to hire an additional staff member. The issue of dementia is important, but they do not have the data or research staff to pursue this subject.

Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity & Opportunity, Ms. Julianna McVeigh, Masters Student, Yale School of Public Health: Their testimony was in **support** of this legislation. The role of a statewide Alzheimer's and Dementia services coordinator is an innovative and forward-thinking by opportunity for our state. Twenty-three states have created these positions to help align with federal opportunities and well as collaborate with municipalities and the medical profession about emerging best practices. They determined that this was their number one priority recommendation for our state to create this statewide dementia services coordinator position.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:

LeadingAge, Connecticut, Ms. Mag Morelli, President: They **support** the advocacy of establishing a Dementia Services Coordinator as proposed in this proposal. Their concern is that wording in the bill might be interpreted that the coordinator's task would be to "coordinate dementia services in the state". They suggest that the wording be modified to "coordinate dementia services across state agencies" instead.

AgingCT, Ms. Maureen McIntyre, CEO, North Central Area Agency on Aging: They are in **support** of this bill, and they believe that it is both timely and appropriate that the state join with the 49 states with Alzheimer's State Plans. And they also point out that 23 states have funded positions that are tasked with overseeing their responses.

Alzheimer's Association, Ms. Christy Kovel, Director of Public Policy: They strongly **support** this proposal and offer a suggestion that the coordinator be placed in the Dept. of Public Health. Because of the growing number of people impacted by Alzheimer's or other dementia highlights the need for a better coordinated response to streamline programs.

AARP Connecticut, Ms. Anna Doroghazi, Assoc. State Director, Advocacy and Outreach: the AARP **supports** this bill. This position would allow that state to evaluate the impact of its policies, keep the Alzheimer's State Plan current, and provide a more person and family centered approach to services provided.

NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:

None

Reported by: Richard Ferrari, Assist. Clerk

Date: 3/3/23