



CAFCA

Connecticut Association
for Community Action

March 5, 2020 Public Hearing Testimony before the Connecticut General Assembly's Human Services Committee

In Support of

Senate Bill 273: An Act Creating a Task Force to Consider Dual Delivery of State-Administered Human Services by Community Nonprofit Agencies.

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Distinguished Chairpersons, Vice-Chairpersons, Ranking Members, and Members, my name is Kelley Hall and I am the Development, Communications and Grants Manager for the Connecticut Association for Community Action (CAFCA), the state association that works with Connecticut's nine Community Action Agencies (CAAs), the state and federal designated antipoverty agencies.

I am here to express our support for Senate Bill 273, *An Act Creating a Task Force to Consider Dual Delivery of State-Administered Human Services by Community Nonprofit Agencies*.

S.B. 273 establishes a task force to explore more efficient and effective delivery of state-administered human services through the provision of services by community nonprofit agencies. In the current economic climate, Connecticut state agencies and nonprofit organizations alike recognize the need to maximize resources and partnerships to improve service delivery. This task force will show how both parties can form mutually beneficial relationships directed toward this common goal, and generate greater, system-wide impact at a decreased cost.

As the largest statewide safety net service provider, Connecticut's network of Community Action Agencies connect neighbors in need with resources that stabilize and improve lives and communities. Every year, we work with over 259,000 low- and moderate-income people across the state – including your constituents – to provide them with essential services like energy and heating assistance, job training, early child care and education, nutrition, and housing.

Through the provision of case management services, the state's CAA Network has been able to expand the services and programs it offers. Along with managing the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), we now run the Social Services Block Grant Case Management (SSBG CM) and the Supplemental Nutritional Assistance Program (SNAP) Outreach Program. CAFCA and the CAAs can save the state time and money, and help avoid

duplicative state administrative efforts by running similar programs for low and moderate-income residents across state agencies and as the Administrative Services Organization (ASO) for federal block grants and other state funding streams that require direct service provision and coordinated case management.

S.B. 273 will play a critical role in helping to determine more opportunities like this in the future for Connecticut's CAA Network and other nonprofits across the state. Thank you for your time and consideration. We look forward to working with you and the Administration to continue to serve Connecticut's most at-risk and vulnerable residents.