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State of Connecticut
SENATE

SENATE REPUBLICAN LEADER PRO TEMPORE

RANKING MEMBER
ENERGY & TECHNOLOGY COMMITTEE
EXEC. & LEGIS. NOMINATIONS COMMITTEE

MEMBER
FINANCE, REVENUE & BONDING COMMITTEE

February 9, 2021

Co-chairs Sen. Slap and Rep. Phipps and distinguished members of the Aging Committee:

I am Senate Republican Leader Pro Tempore Paul Formica, and I urge you to support:

- **S.B. 816: AN ACT ESTABLISHING A REVOLVING LOAN FUND TO ASSIST ELDERLY HOMEOWNERS.**
- **S.B. 812: AN ACT EXPANDING ELIGIBILITY FOR THE ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE RESPITE CARE PROGRAM**
- **S.B. 813: AN ACT CONCERNING RETROACTIVE MEDICAID ELIGIBILITY FOR HOME CARE SERVICES.**

These bills mirror proposals by my colleague, Senate Republican Leader Kevin Kelly, the Ranking Senator on the Aging Committee who has been a staunch champion for Connecticut's seniors.


Our state has a high cost of living, and Sen. Kelly has been a leading voice in our caucus's effort to pass policies which make Connecticut more affordable for middle class families. Included in that effort are our senior citizens. We want to do all we can – in a bipartisan fashion - to make our state a more appealing and hospitable place for our elderly residents to live their golden years. S.B. 816 establishes a revolving loan fund to help financially distressed senior citizens pay their property taxes. Providing seniors this avenue for fiscal relief will send a positive message throughout our state that we value and cherish our senior population and understand the financial challenges they face.

Part of that positive message to our seniors involves access to vital health care. S.B. 812 expands access to the Alzheimer's disease respite care program by raising income and asset limits. The Aging Committee knows that Alzheimer's is a disease that is very debilitating and painful, not only to those who are suffering with it, but also to the patient's loved ones as well. When Alzheimer's hits a family member, it can cause many heart-wrenching conflicts and questions within the family. Over the past several years, this committee has taken many positive strides to improve our state's policies in this area. Our overarching goal is to alleviate the pain of everyone who is dealing with this disease and for those who may deal with it in the future. S.B. 812 keeps our state on a path to do just that.

The goal of S.B. 813 is to make sure there is no gap in care from the date a person runs out of money to pay privately for home care and the date the home health care aide is paid by Medicaid. We should be doing all we can to support ways in which seniors can stay in their homes. SB 813 ensures that elderly residents can continue to receive home care without a gap in the provision of home health services. Addressing this issue will provide peace of mind and certainty to vulnerable seniors and their families, as well as their caregivers.

Thank you to members of the Aging Committee for your consideration of these measures which will improve the lives of Connecticut seniors and their caregivers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'P. Formica', enclosed within a large, loopy oval flourish.

Paul Formica
State Senator, District 20