



Testimony to the Appropriations Committee

**In Support of the Governor's Budget Proposal Related to the
Affordable Senior Housing with Services**

**HOUSE BILL 6439, AN ACT CONCERNING THE STATE BUDGET FOR THE BIENNIUM ENDING
JUNE THIRTIETH, 2023, AND MAKING APPROPRIATIONS THEREFOR**

Submitted by Mag Morelli, President of LeadingAge Connecticut

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LeadingAge Connecticut, a membership association representing over 130 not-for-profit organizations serving older adults across the continuum of care, services, supports and housing. Our membership includes not-for-profit providers of affordable senior housing, all of whom are committed to providing quality housing and services to their residents. We are pleased to submit testimony in support of the Governor's proposed budget which supports our current models of affordable senior housing with services.

LeadingAge Connecticut is a strong proponent of linking affordable senior housing with long term services and supports; a model that enables older adults to remain in the community where they can thrive as they age. We believe that this model is one of the answers to our state's quest to balance the system of long-term services and supports because it can provide an array of services to seniors residing in an affordable housing community while also often preventing or delaying nursing home placement.

We are proud of the fact that Connecticut has developed several nationally acclaimed models of senior housing plus services. These models include allowing assisted living services that are funded through the Connecticut Home Care Program to be delivered to residents living in our state congregate and HUD 202 housing sites, as well as within the four pilot Subsidized Assisted Living Demonstration sites which are the subject of our testimony this evening. We have excellent models of providing affordable senior housing plus services in this state, but we are in need of more units to meet the growing needs of our elderly population.

Anecdotally it is clear that we are victims of our own success. The model of providing services and supports within affordable senior housing settings is allowing older adults to age in place and remain in their units much longer than our previous experience. This success means that fewer units open up and the waiting lists continue to grow. Our members report waiting lists hundreds of names long. We need to invest in building more units of affordable senior housing with rental subsidies to meet this growing need.

We encourage the state to seek ways to incentivize the development of affordable senior housing. Possibly the state could consider using a portion of the HOME program funding that Connecticut receives from HUD. These are very flexible dollars that the state can use for rental subsidies and other housing needs. The state could also consider utilizing the point system within the Qualified Allocation Plan to incentivize senior housing development.

Older adults must be afforded the opportunity to remain in the towns and cities that they have lived in or to be near the families that they love. We urge the state to continue to demonstrate their commitment to providing affordable community-based options for older adults by investing in the development of more affordable senior housing.

Thank you for your consideration of this submitted testimony.

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Additional Resources on the Concept of Senior Housing Plus Services

A large and rapidly expanding population of low-income older adults faces the dual challenges of finding affordable, safe housing that can accommodate changing needs as they grow older. Millions of older adult renters and homeowners face excessive housing costs and/or live in housing with serious physical problems. As they age, an increasing proportion of these older adults experience multiple chronic illnesses. In many cases, deteriorating physical and cognitive functioning impede the ability of these older adults to live independently in the community.

[The LeadingAge LTSS Center @UMass Boston](#) is striving to address these challenges by serving as a national catalyst for the development, adoption, and support of innovative affordable housing solutions that enable older adults with low and modest incomes to age safely and successfully in their homes and communities.