

# Aging Committee JOINT FAVORABLE REPORT

**Bill No.:** SB-175

AN ACT EXPANDING ELIGIBILITY FOR THE ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

**Title:** RESPITE CARE PROGRAM AND SUPPORTING AGING IN PLACE.

**Vote Date:** 3/10/2022

**Vote Action:** Joint Favorable Substitute Change of Reference to Appropriations

**PH Date:** 3/3/2022

**File No.:**

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## **SPONSORS OF BILL:**

Aging Committee

## **REASONS FOR BILL:**

The reason behind the bill is to expand eligibility for the Alzheimer's disease respite care program, and to provide funding to allow more senior citizens to remain at home. By allowing individuals with Alzheimer's to remain at home, the bill would aim to support family caregivers, who otherwise are frequently uncompensated for their work.

The JFS language changes the asset increase from \$135,000 to \$140,000 to reflect the current asset limit, as addressed by AARP.

## **RESPONSE FROM ADMINISTRATION/AGENCY:**

**The Department of Aging and Disability Services** states that their agency already accounts for changing income and asset limits, which are reflected in annual adjustments based on the Social Security COLA. They also state that since they estimate the bill as requiring an additional \$1 million in funding, they do not support it.

## **NATURE AND SOURCES OF SUPPORT:**

**Ms. Anna Doroghazi, Policy and Outreach Coordinator, AARP** offered testimony in support of this bill, as it would provide economic relief to family caregivers, and would prefer to see a higher asset limit for program participation than the provided \$135,000 set forward in the bill.

**Ms. Cristy Kovel, Director of Public Policy Alzheimer's Association Connecticut Chapter** offered testimony in support of this bill on behalf of unpaid family caretakers helping family members with Alzheimer's. She cited the duress of family caretakers of those with Alzheimer's and recognizes the Alzheimer's Respite Care program and home & community-based services as a less costly alternative for taking care of individuals with Alzheimer's.

**Ms. Mag Morelli, President, LeadingAge Connecticut** offered testimony in support of this bill, stating their support of a range of choices in continuum of care. She stated that this bill would assist the caregivers of individuals with Alzheimer's many of whom are unpaid family members.

**Mr. Michael Werner, Commission on Women, Children, Seniors, Equity & Opportunity** offered testimony in support of this bill, on the grounds that family caretakers for individuals with Alzheimer's report disproportionately high stress and financial duress. He stated that this helps support the safety net for family caretakers.

#### **NATURE AND SOURCES OF OPPOSITION:**

**David Godbout, Constituent**, he expressed opposition to all bills put forward by the committee, under the claim of nullification.

**Reported by:**

**Date: 3/14/2022**

**Cameron Clarke, Committee Clerk  
Richard Ferrari, Assistant Clerk**