

**Commission on Enhancing Agency Outcomes
Room 2200 Legislative Office Building
Hartford, CT 06106**

September 2, 2010

The Honorable M. Jodi Rell
Governor
State of Connecticut
State Capitol
Hartford, CT 06106

Dear Governor Rell:

As members of the bipartisan Commission on Enhancing Agency Outcomes, we respectfully and urgently request that you use the power of your leadership to more aggressively make long-term care and its costs a priority¹. The commission recently received and concurs with the following priority action items from the Commission on Aging, the Connecticut Regional Institute for the 21st Century, the Connecticut Long-Term Care Planning Committee, and the Connecticut Business and Industry Association as logical starting points to more aggressively move forward on long-term care reform:

- Charge someone in your administration to be responsible and accountable for developing quickly a strategy based on Connecticut's 2010 Long-Term Care Plan, to determine what to do first, by whom, and by when, and then execute that strategy with reasonable speed and comprehensiveness
- Key first steps in the strategy should be:
 - develop the outline of a comprehensive system of home and community-based care, analogous to that pertaining to persons with developmental disabilities, as a viable alternative to nursing home care
 - Create a workable statewide single point of entry that is customer-friendly
 - Simplify and streamline federal waivers and related programs and pilots
 - Assist nursing homes in diversifying their business models
 - Learn from other states

Commendably, the state has taken a purposeful approach in this area to identify problems, obstacles, and solutions related to long-term care. Statewide planning has been required since 1998, with the most recent comprehensive plan completed in January 2010, based on a 2007 statewide needs assessment. As you know, the plan's central conclusion is that Connecticut's long-term care system is out of balance, with a current over-emphasis on institutional care and public resources. This imbalance may thwart personal choice and optimum care level, and cost

¹ Long-term care in Connecticut is among the areas identified for potential cost savings by the Commission on Enhancing Agency Outcomes. As you know, long-term care costs represent a substantial part of the state budget; looking only at those expenditures covered by Medicaid, long-term care expenses were \$2.4 billion, or 13 percent of the state's FY 2009 budget.

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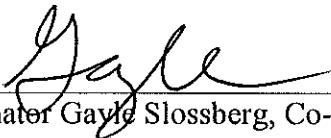
Connecticut taxpayers more. The plan includes a number of specific steps recommended to reach a new balance favoring home and community-based care.

We recognize and appreciate all the work done by your administration, in particular by the Long-Term Care Planning Committee, charged with the statewide planning task, and chaired and staffed by the Office of Policy and Management. The latest long-term care plan dated January 2010 includes a very informative status report on state long-term care activities since the last plan in 2007, and touches on the key steps identified above. No doubt the work to date provides an invaluable base from which to proceed. However, we look at our progress in light of the state's fiscal situation, and conclude that more focused and urgent action needs to be taken, given the potential savings to the state. Thus we make the request above.

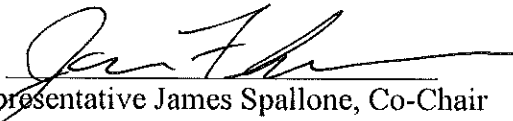
Clearly, the long-term care system is complicated, with multiple types and levels of care needs, diverse funding, competing long-term care providers with significant investments, and a structure that needs to meet personal choice and court-mandated policy goals. We also understand that in the process of rebalancing, we must be careful not to create two parallel, expensive entitlement programs. However, given the state's fiscal situation and soaring aging population, a more urgent timetable is needed now to rapidly change Connecticut's long-term care system to favor home and community-based care and promote greater use of private resources. The current system is unsustainable.

We appreciate your assistance in achieving these measures and look forward to working with you on this crucial issue.

Sincerely,



Senator Gayle Slossberg, Co-Chair
Government Administration and Elections
Committee Chair



Representative James Spallone, Co-Chair
Government Administration and Elections
Committee Chair



Representative Mary Mushinsky, Member
Legislative Program Review and Investigations
Committee Chair