



Good afternoon the Chairs of the Aging Committee Senator Hochadel and Representative Garibay, Vice Chairs Senator Miller, and Representative Fortier and Ranking Members Senator Seminara, and Representative Bolinsky. Thank you for your time today.

My name is Maureen McIntyre and I'm the CEO of the North Central Area Agency on Aging. My agency is proud to be a member of AgingCT, the association of the five statewide Area Agencies on Aging; we are five agencies with one mission.

Please accept this testimony in support of **H.B. No. 5294 (RAISED) AN ACT CONCERNING A REGISTRY OF PERSONS CONVICTED OF FINANCIAL CRIMES AGAINST ELDERLY PERSONS.**

In 2022, in accordance with Special Act 22-12: An Act Concerning A Study Of Homemaker-Companion Agency the CT General Assembly empaneled a multi-disciplinary task force that would provide a forum for conversation around elder financial fraud and abuse. The task force included representatives from homemaker and companion agencies, families of older adults, consumers of home care services, state agencies and community-based advocacy organizations.

What followed was a year of productive dialogue across the various perspectives that included work-force shortages, regulatory ambiguity, and the very personal and powerful testimony of consumers and family members. AgingCT has enduring respect for these consumers and their courage in speaking out.

We appreciate the passion of the home care providers without whom there would be no functional CT Statewide Respite Program, National Family Caregiver Support Program, or Medicaid Waivers. And we applaud the commitment of an underfunded workforce that goes largely unheard when things go well, but are subject to exposure when things go wrong.

We recognize and acknowledge the difficult position of the myriad state and local agencies that are touched by this Bill.

Connecticut continues to make significant investments in the safety and support of older adults. Cases in point, the creation of a common entry point for elder abuse referral at the Attorney General's Office, the newly created community ombudsman program, and gratefully, funding for AgingCT's Service Navigators. All are necessary investments given the aging of our population and the growing need for community-based service options. **H.B. No. 5294** represents our state's continued intentions to ensure the future safety of our older adults and maintains the confidence in those who care for them.



Connecticut's five Area Agencies on Aging collaborate under the name, AgingCT. We are independent, nonprofit organizations, with federal designation, dedicated to help older adults and persons with disabilities thrive in the community with dignity and support throughout their lives. We advocate and educate legislators, policy makers and Connecticut residents on the issues of importance to older constituents and those who support them. Visit www.agingct.org to learn more.

Submitted by:

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On behalf of AgingCT