



*Written Testimony before the Aging Committee
Submitted by the Department of Social Services
February 19, 2019*

H.B. 7072 (RAISED) - AN ACT INCREASING FUNDING FOR ELDERLY NUTRITION SERVICES.

This bill would increase the rate to providers of home-delivered meals who participate in the Connecticut Home Care Program for Elders.

While the Department certainly values the work community providers deliver to beneficiaries of our programs, there are multiple services and hundreds of providers participating in not only the Connecticut Home Care program, but other waiver and community-based services programs. The Department believes singling out one provider type at the exclusion of the others is inequitable and cannot be supported. If the Department increased the rates for all DSS waiver services by even 1%, the potential additional cost would be about \$7.3 million, of which \$3.9 million would be the net state share.

It should be noted that the Department instituted a 2% rate increase for meals on wheels, as part of a broader increase in waiver rates, which became effective as of January 1, 2019.

Given the fiscal climate, it is not anticipated that there will be funds included in the Governor's recommended budget to support another rate increase; therefore, the department cannot support this proposal.