



*Written Testimony before the Aging Committee
Submitted by the Department of Social Services
February 2, 2023*

SB 903 AN ACT CONCERNING A STUDY OF LONG-TERM CARE NEEDS

The Department of Social Services commends the Aging Committee for its attention to the need for strategic planning for Medicaid long-term care services. Strategic planning is critical given the strong preferences of older adults and individuals with disabilities to live in home and community-based settings, the state's interest in controlling escalating costs, and support for town-level tailoring of strategies to meet local needs. However, DSS respectfully states that this legislation is not needed.

As statutorily required, DSS developed and implemented the Strategic Plan to Rebalance Long-Term Services and Supports in 2013. This plan includes a study of long-term care needs and specific actions that DSS aims to take to address the needs. The Strategic Plan is updated every three years and captures the data and planning strategies that are contemplated by this bill. The DSS strategic plan was last updated in 2020 and is available for review on our website¹: The Strategic Plan guides the activities of the Department. The 2023 plan is scheduled for release on June 30, 2023. The 2023 plan will include recent initiatives funded under section 9817 of the American Rescue Plan Act.

In addition, Connecticut General Statutes section 17b-337 requires the Connecticut Long-Term Care Planning Committee to prepare a long-term care plan every three years based on the fundamental principle that individuals with long-term care needs have the option to choose and receive long-term services and supports in the least restrictive, appropriate setting. The most recent plan, titled *Balancing the System: Working Toward Real Choice for Long-Term Services and Supports in Connecticut*, was revised in 2021 and submitted to the legislature in December 2021. It can be accessed at ct.gov²:

The work of the Connecticut Long-Term Care Planning Committee informs the DSS' Strategic Plan to Rebalance Long-Term Services and Supports.

For these reasons the Department respectfully states that this legislation is not necessary.

¹ https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/Departments-and-Agencies/DSS/Health-and-Home-Care/Medicaid-Long-Term-Care-Demand-Projections/strategic_rebalancing_plan-2020.pdf

² https://portal.ct.gov/-/media/OPM/HHS/LTC_Planning_Committee/2022-LTSS-Plan_FINAL_Submission.pdf