

Connecticut Commission on
Women, Children *and* Seniors



CWCS

Testimony of the
Commission on Women, Children and Seniors
Submitted to the
Planning and Development Committee
March 3, 2017

Re: Raised Bill #922, An Act Concerning Temporary Health Care Structures

Senators Cassano and Logan and Representative Lemar, and distinguished members of the Planning and Development Committee, thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on behalf of the Commission on Women, Children and Seniors in reference to Raised Bill #922, An Act Concerning Temporary Health Care Structures.

This bill seeks to allow Connecticut residents to install temporary health care structures (THS) on their property. Temporary health care structures are self-contained living areas, located on the property of the caregiver. They are a type of accessory dwelling unit and represent one of a broad range of accessible, affordable and creative housing options emerging for older adults or persons with disabilities who may need assistance with the activities of daily living but may be unable or hesitant to reside directly in-house with a caregiver.

At least 20% of almost every town's population in the state will be 65 years of age or older by 2025, with some towns exceeding 40%. Between 2010 and 2040, Connecticut's population of people age 65 and older is expected to grow by 57%, with less than 2% growth for people age 20 to 64 during the same period.ⁱ Increased longevity, declining birth rates, and declining mortality are all converging to create a new, long-term reality—older adults will comprise an increasingly large proportion of the population.

Nearly 70% of occupied homes in Connecticut are single-family, which will present challenges as demand continues to grow for other housing types. Moreover, the majority (59%) of Connecticut's housing stock was built before 1970, and the remaining stock (41%) built after 1970 may not meet the needs of Connecticut's changing demographics.ⁱⁱ Costly renovations to existing structures may not be feasible to allow for a safe environment as one ages in his/her own home.

For additional information, the Office of Legislative Research recently completed a [report](#) highlighting four states (Minnesota, North Carolina, Tennessee and Virginia) with laws establishing uniform requirements for THSs. CWCS supports policies that will help older adults receive long-term care in their homes and communities and with the support of loved ones—the far-preferred and most cost-effective way.

ⁱ These figures were calculated by the former Connecticut Legislative Commission on Aging in partnership with the Connecticut State Data Center.

ⁱⁱ Partnership for Strong Communities. Housing Data Profiles: Connecticut, 2015.
http://pshousing.org/housingprofiles2015/PSC_2015HsgProfile_CT.pdf