

Dear Friends:

When it comes to protecting those we care about, we can never be too careful. I have compiled information on several proactive strategies you may wish to employ. Some of these are new and I wanted to bring them to your attention. Some of them have been in place for a while, but you may not have been aware of them. As always, if you have any questions, please do not hesitate to contact me. Thank you for the privilege of serving you.

Sincerely,



Betty Boukus
State Representative

Opt Out of Nuisance Credit Offers

Here is a way to reduce the amount of junk mail and solicitations you receive:

The major credit bureaus offer a **free Opt Out** service to help you protect your personal information:

Call • 1-888-5-OPTOUT (1-888-567-8688)

Visit • www.optoutprescreen.com

Betty Boukus • Representing Plainville, Bristol, New Britain



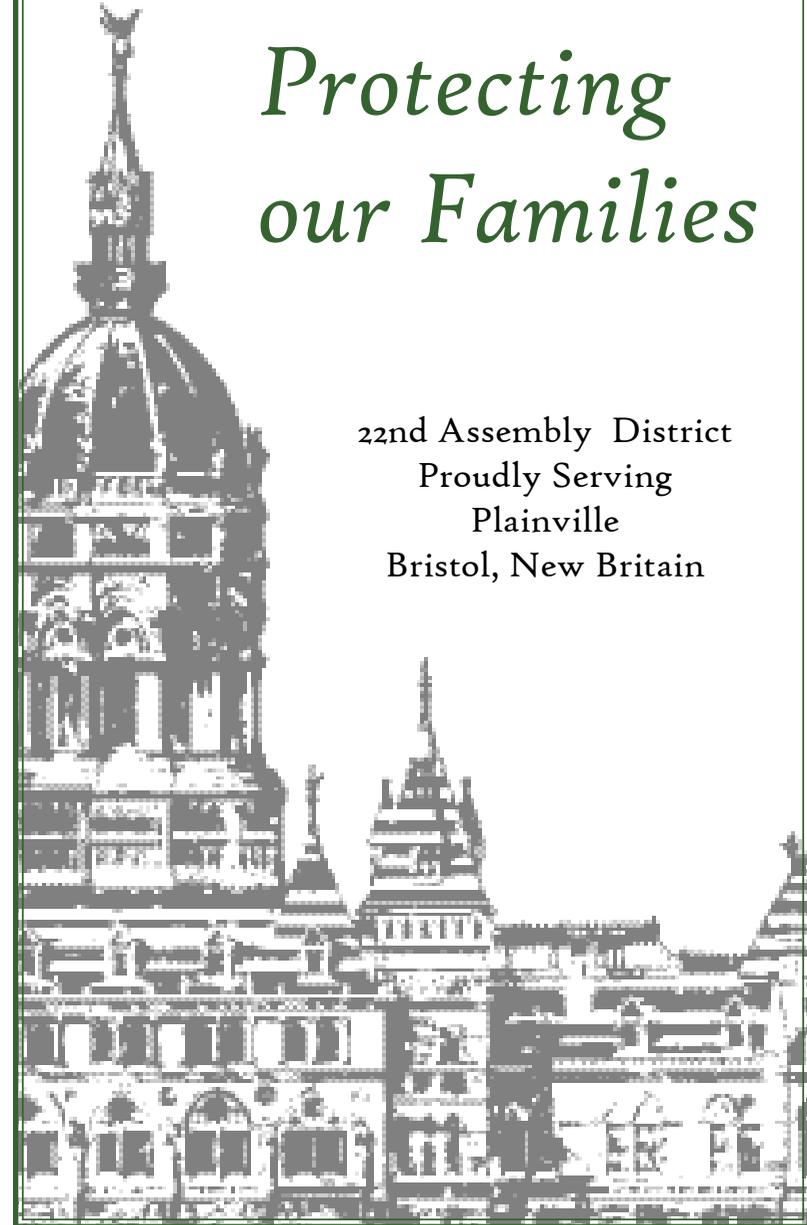
Betty Boukus
State Representative

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 4042
HARTFORD CT 06106-1591
AT THE CAPITOL: 1-800-842-8267
E-MAIL: [BETTY.BOUKUS@CGA.CT.GOV](mailto: BETTY.BOUKUS@CGA.CT.GOV)

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State Representative
Betty Boukus

*Protecting
our Families*



22nd Assembly District
Proudly Serving
Plainville
Bristol, New Britain

Protecting our Seniors



The Connecticut Homecare Option Program for the Elderly

This program will allow seniors to establish long term care savings accounts to help them pay for at-home support services, so they can stay in their homes longer (PA 07-130).

New Protections for Assisted Living Residents

Living facilities will now be required to provide each resident with a written service plan and maintain reports on the scope of service provided. Facilities are barred from managing the financial affairs or property of residents (PA 07-2).

Safe Driving Incentives

Drivers age 60 + are now eligible for a car insurance discount after completing a Department of Motor Vehicles-approved accident prevention course (PA 07-5). Contact: AAA at 1-800-842-4320, x6 or AARP at 1-888-227-7669.

Contact me for a complete summary of the new laws affecting seniors.

Preventing Fires

Safer Cigarettes

Fires caused by cigarettes result in 700 to 900 deaths per year. Starting in 2008, cigarettes sold in Connecticut must meet certain fire-safe performance standards, be safety tested and be self-extinguishing (PA 07-180).



Securing our Children

Jessica's Law

We toughened the penalties for the sexual assault of minors by enacting Jessica's Law, which establishes a new crime of aggravated sexual assault of a child under age 13. It carries a mandatory minimum prison term of 25 to 50 years (PA 07-143).

Risk Assessment

We also mandated the development of a risk scale for sex offenders. The scale will be used to assign offenders a risk level based on their likelihood to re-offend and to decide what restrictions should be placed on the riskiest population (PA 07-4).

Keep Updated

The sex offender database is available to the public at local police stations and at www.ct.gov/dps.



Bus Safety

During the last legislative session, we voted to ensure the health of our students by requiring the state to pay for towns to retrofit their school buses with emissions reducing equipment by 2010 (PA 07-4).



Addressing Basic Needs

Energy Assistance

Paying the energy bills can be especially difficult for our seniors and residents on fixed incomes. To find out if you qualify for assistance, call:

Plainville Social Services • (860) 793-0221 x 294
Bristol Social Services • (860) 584-6260
New Britain Social Services • (860) 826-3366
Veterans • 1-800-491-4941
OR
Ask your utility company about its assistance programs

Did you know?



You can protect yourself from harmful chemicals by adding your name to the pesticide notification registry.

Here's how:

Call the Department of Environmental Protection's Pesticide Management Program at (860) 424-3369. Request an application for inclusion on the pesticide notification registry.

OR

Download the application from DEP's website at www.ct.gov/dep/cwp/view.asp?a=2710&q=324270.

Complete the application.

Submit your application to the DEP address included on the application. Keep a copy for your records.

The deadline to be included on the 2008 list has passed, but you can still protect yourself this year:

Submit a copy of your application directly to each company hired to apply pesticide in your neighborhood. This will obligate each company to notify you independently until you are placed on the central registry.

Notification will give you enough warning to avoid exposure.

Questions? Contact:

State Representative Betty Boukus

Capitol: (860) 240-8500

1-800-842-8267

E-mail: Betty.Boukus@cga.ct.gov

