

Office of the Healthcare Advocate

The Office of the Healthcare Advocate can help you navigate healthcare coverage. If you have questions regarding enrollment in a healthcare plan or require assistance understanding the referral or pre-authorization process or the appeal/grievance procedures, you may call toll-free at **1-866-466-4446**. This office can also provide you with information on public and private health insurance plans offered in Connecticut. **Visit the website at www.ct.gov/oha.**

CHOICES Program

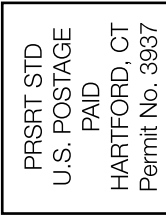
Need help understanding Medicare and other health insurance options? CHOICES is an information source for services available to people age 60 and over, and those with disabilities. **You can contact a counselor at 1-800-994-9422 for information about your Medicare and health insurance coverage.**

HUSKY Care

This public healthcare program offers a variety of plans for children, parents, relative caregivers, elders, individuals with disabilities, adults without dependent children and pregnant women. HUSKY Health is based on income levels. **For more information, or to see if you qualify, call toll-free at 1-877-284-8759.**

CT Veterans Health Administration

The Veterans Health Administration is America's largest integrated healthcare system, providing care to 9 million enrolled Veterans each year. You may qualify for VA health care benefits if you served in the active military, naval, or air service. The Veterans Health Administration includes services to help treat illnesses or injuries, prevent future health problems, improve your ability to function, and enhance your quality of life. If you want to apply for VA Health Benefits, you can do so at **www.va.gov/health-care/apply/application/introduction**. You can also apply by calling **1-877-222-8387**.



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
Christine Conley
PROUDLY SERVING GROTON AND LEDYARD



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

Christine Conley

Dear Neighbor,

I am reaching out to you with an update on our work at the State Capitol to support health equity in Connecticut.

The legislation seeks to ensure quality healthcare to Connecticut residents. The bills codify coverage of pre-existing conditions, requires insurers to include mental health coverage, and creates a Paid Family Medical Leave program. In general, the bills will promote a healthy Connecticut, now and for future generations. This new legislation helps to promote a healthy and sustainable future for Connecticut.

It is my honor to represent you in Hartford. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Christine Conley

Health Care Is A Top Legislative Priority

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www.housedems.ct.gov/Conley

www.facebook.com/RepConley/

State Representative Christine Conley

I am Proud To Have Worked On These Issues:

PROTECTING PRE-EXISTING CONDITIONS: The legislature passed HB 5521, which expands on existing law. This bill puts the ACA protections for pre-existing conditions into statute. Additionally, this legislation includes short term health plans and conditions previously not receiving medical treatment. This bill ensures that people in Connecticut with pre-existing conditions will be protected.

MENTAL HEALTH PARITY: I recognize that CT needs to do better on mental health and substance abuse disorder, and make mental health treatment accessible. Legislation has been introduced requiring that health insurance companies treat mental health issues in the same way that they treat physical health.



HEALTH INSURANCE COST-SHARING: A new law limits the maximum out-of-pocket expenses that certain health insurers may charge such as co-payments, co-insurance and deductibles. Under this law, health insurance plans cannot impose cost-sharing that exceeds (1) the amount paid to the provider for the covered service, (2) an amount calculated based on how much the provider charges, or (3) the amount an insured would have paid to the provider without using their insurance.

COVERAGE FOR HEARING AIDS: This bill eliminates an age restriction for mandated health insurance coverage for hearing aids, thus requiring certain insurance policies to cover hearing aids for any covered person.

BREAST IMAGING: The Governor signed a bill into law which will prohibit the charging of a co-payment, cost-sharing, applying to a deductible or charging of a facility fee for both routine and baseline mammograms and breast ultrasounds for breast cancer screenings.

PAID FAMILY MEDICAL LEAVE: This program ensures that no one should have to choose between work and taking time off to care for a new child, a family member with a serious health condition, or their own serious health issue. The legislation will provide up to 12 weeks of wage replacement benefits for state residents who are eligible.

RAISING THE SMOKING AGE: A new law increases the legal smoking age from 18 to 21. This applies to cigarettes, other tobacco products, and electronic cigarettes.

MEDICARE SAVINGS PROGRAM: The State of Connecticut offers financial assistance to eligible Medicare enrollees through our 'Medicare Savings Programs.' These programs may help pay Medicare Part B premiums, deductibles and co-insurance. In this year's budget we made sure to protect this program.

