

# The Connecticut General Assembly



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## LEGISLATORS WELCOME HELP FOR FAMILY CAREGIVERS

State Representatives **Theresa Conroy** (D-105), **Linda M. Gentile** (D-104) and **Themis Klarides** (R-114) hailed House and Senate approval of legislation ([SB 290](#)) to facilitate follow-up care for hospital patients by requiring hospitals to record names of designated caregivers and provide detailed instructions for follow-up care.

There are more than 700,000 family caregivers in CT providing daily care and support to their loved ones so that they may stay in their homes longer. According to AARP, 61% of Connecticut residents over age 40 are currently providing, or have provided, unpaid care to an adult loved.

“Complex medical care combined with shorter hospital stays can mean increased anxiety and stress on family members and leading to costly hospital readmissions,” Rep. **Conroy** said. “Caregivers provide patients with medication, injections, and change dressings and bandages. When a caregiver receives the proper tools and basic instructions from medical professionals at the hospital, we can ensure better outcomes.”

The legislation requires a hospital, when discharging a patient to his or her home, to:

- Allow the patient to designate a caregiver
- Document the designated caregiver
- Attempt to notify the designated caregiver of the patient's discharge home
- Instruct the caregiver on post-discharge tasks and care

“The legislation is a good next step in helping people recover from the ailment that required hospitalization,” said Rep. **Gentile**. “Making not only the patient, but a family member, spouse or friend accountable for follow up increases the odds for recovery.”

Klarides, the House Republican Leader, said, “This is just common sense in providing for patients who often fail to receive follow-up care that can make a huge difference in their recoveries. This legislation will fill a yawning void in their aftercare and formalize much needed protocols.”