

STATE REPRESENTATIVE MIKE D'AGOSTINO

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

While Hamden is a vibrant community that caters to every age and demographic, it is vital that our town maintains the level of services and programs it provides to our senior residents so that they can remain active in the community. I am proud to have devoted a significant amount of my time in the legislature to addressing the core issues that our seniors face. In the past, this has included securing funding for the town's Elderly Services Department, passing legislation to protect those who choose to live in a continuing care community setting like Whitney Center, and ensuring that regular, discounted handicapped accessible public transportation remains available.

This year, we also ensured that participants in the Renters' Rebate Program will be reimbursed for rental payments they made in the preceding calendar year. The Connecticut Renters' Rebate Program provides rebates to older adult or disabled renters whose incomes do not exceed certain thresholds. Between April 1 and Oct. 1, qualified individuals can apply to their local assessors once a year for state reimbursement for rental payments.

In addition to that program, the bipartisan budget that was signed into law in October also included a provision that will phase in an exemption of social security and pensions from the state income tax beginning in 2019.

These changes will not only keep Connecticut on the path to fiscal stability but ensure that we continue to help senior residents. I look forward to continuing to work on legislation that puts them, and all of our residents' needs first.

Sincerely,



PROUDLY SERVING HAMDEN

Legislative Office Building, Hartford, CT 06106-1591

Phone: 860-240-8500

Email: Michael.DAgostino@cga.ct.gov

www.housedems.ct.gov/DAGostino



www.facebook.com/RepDAGostino



PRSRT STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
HARTFORD, CT
Permit No. 3937

STATE REPRESENTATIVE MIKE D'AGOSTINO

PROUDLY SERVING HAMDEN

CONTINUING CARE RETIREMENT COMMUNITIES (CCRC'S)

Legislation I drafted – Public Act No. 15-115 – protects residents of Continuing Care Retirement Communities across the state such as those at Whitney Center in Hamden. The core function of such communities is to allow its residents to age in place with dignity and security.

Among other things, the law provides for:

- Further transparency and disclosure to residents regarding the financial stability of the provider operating the facility.
- Timely notification about developments affecting the facility including ownership changes, facility construction and renovation and changes to the provider's financial condition.
- Improved communication between the residents and management.
- Streamlining the regulatory requirement associated with opening and operating a facility in Connecticut.

SOCIAL SECURITY INCOME TAX EXEMPTION

As part of the bipartisan budget, we passed a provision phasing in an exemption of social security and pensions from the state income tax starting in 2019. This will help provide much needed tax relief to those who most need it and allow them to keep more of their own money.

SENIOR RENTERS' REBATE PROGRAM

After residents at Davenport-Dunbar reached out to let me know about problems receiving their senior renter rebate reimbursement, I worked hard to make sure the assistance provided by the program reached our seniors before the end of the year.

Under the Connecticut Renters' Rebate Program, older adult or disabled renters whose incomes do not exceed certain thresholds, can qualify for state reimbursement for rental payments they made in the preceding calendar year. While renters' rebate recipients are typically 65 years or older or 18 years old and permanently disabled, they also must meet a one-year state residency requirement.

We made sure that this needed assistance did not continue to remain hostage to the state's budget crisis. Cities and towns will continue to collect information and verify a resident's eligibility for the rental assistance, and then the state will send out checks to renters.

If you have further questions feel free to contact my office or the Renters' Rebate Program hotline at 860-418-6377.

State Rep. D'Agostino is honored by the Connecticut Continuing Care Residents Association for passage of a law creating a Bill of Rights for Residents of Continuing Care Retirement Communities.

