

# IMPORTANT TELEPHONE NUMBERS

CT Infoline General Assistance	2-1-1
Center for Medicare Advocacy	800-633-4227
Tax Department	860-297-5962
Consumer Protection	860-713-6300
Unclaimed Property	860-702-3125
Department of Veterans' Affairs	860-616-3600
Office of the Healthcare Advocate	866-466-4446
W. Hartford Police-Non-Emergency	860-523-5203
W. Hartford Senior Center	860-561-7583

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

## ANDY FLEISCHMANN

REPRESENTING WEST HARTFORD | 18TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

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Capitol: (860) 240-0429

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Dear Friends & Neighbors,

It is my honor to serve you as your State Representative. Please know that I will continue to work diligently to address key issues that affect our quality of life.

To help keep you both informed and engaged in the legislative process, I will send updates on actions taken by the legislature, particularly on the issues directly affecting West Hartford. I hope you find this information to be of use. Please know that I will continue to represent you to the best of my ability. Feel free to contact me if you have questions. Best wishes!

Sincerely,



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# SENIOR NEWS

## THE CONSUMER LAW PROJECT FOR ELDERS

The Consumer Law Project for Elders (a project of Connecticut Legal Services, Inc.) provides free legal assistance to Connecticut residents age 60 or over who have questions about consumer rights, debt or collection problems, receipt of bills for items never purchased, identity theft, bankruptcy, dispute of goods or services purchased and unfair and undisclosed loan terms. For more information, call 1 (800) 296-1467.



## CONTINUING CARE BILL OF RIGHTS

We created a bill of rights for seniors living in continuing care retirement communities. This bill of rights gives residents a voice in decisions that affect them within these communities. It also gives residents more independence in making decisions about their medical care and assisted living services.

## AVOID SHUT OFFS

Most gas and electric utility companies participate in Arrearage Forgiveness Programs, for those falling behind on their heating bills, and the Winter Protection Program, which helps low-income residents avoid shutoffs. For more information, contact your utility company:

**Eversource: 800-286-2828 - CT Natural Gas Company: 860-727-3034**



## VARIABLE ELECTRIC RATES

This year Connecticut became the first state in the nation to protect residents from electricity providers who offer a low introductory rate that increases rapidly afterwards. The protections enacted require variable rate suppliers to give their customers a 60-day notice before the end of their contracts. Suppliers cannot charge these customers a termination or early cancellation fee and must allow customers who want to switch to standard service the ability to do so within 72 hours. We also set up a process for Public Utilities Regulatory Authority (PURA) to further investigate and take measures to completely eliminate variable electric rates when a customer's contract expires.

## PRESCRIPTIONS AVAILABLE IN 90 DAY SUPPLIES

Sometimes illness or difficulty with transportation can make it hard to get to the pharmacy to refill a monthly prescription. It also can be a challenge if you are heading south for the winter and need more than a monthly supply of your medications. This year we passed a new law that enables you to get a 90 day supply. This will allow you to have a three-month supply of a prescription and not have to worry about getting to the pharmacy each month. (Co-pays and other insurance restrictions will still apply).



## REVIEW OF HEALTH CARE COVERAGE DENIALS

When a health insurance carrier denies coverage, sometimes it's because they don't have sufficient information. This year we required health carriers to offer the patient's health care professional an opportunity for a conference with a clinical peer employed by the carrier when a denial is issued. A clinical peer is a physician or health care professional who holds a license in a similar specialty to one who would normally manage the medical service being reviewed. The conference is intended to be a peer-to-peer conversation in which your health provider can make the case for your coverage.

## MILITARY RETIREMENT INCOME NOW EXEMPT FROM CT TAXES

This session we passed legislation to exempt 100% of military veterans' pensions from the state income tax. Currently, just 50% of veteran's retirement pay is exempt. Having supported similar legislation in previous years, I was very pleased to see this finally become law, recognizing those who devoted their careers to serving our country.