

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

- Connecticut Legal Assistance..... 1-800-413-7796
- Consumer Protection..... 1-800-842-2649
- Unclaimed Property Hotline ..... 1-800-833-7318
- CT Tax Department ..... 1-860-297-5962
- Veterans' Benefits and Information ... 1-800-827-1000
- ConnPACE..... 1-800-423-5026
- Medicare Hotline ..... 1-800-633-4227
- CT Partnership for Long-Term Care... 1-800-547-3443
- Infoline ..... 211
- CT Department of Veterans Affairs.... 1-800-550-0000
- CHOICES ..... 1-800-944-9422
- Healthcare Advocate .....1-866-HMO-4446
- DSS Elder Services ..... 1-866-218-6631
- Dept. of Insurance Consumer Affairs 1-800-203-3447
- Area Agency on Aging.....860-555-5453
- Danbury Elderly Services .....203-797-4686

Provided by Representative Bob Godfrey

## Bob Godfrey - Representing Danbury



**Bob Godfrey**  
State Representative  
110th District

Legislative Office Building, Room 4107  
Hartford, CT 06106-1591

**At the Capitol:** (860) 240-8585  
**Home :** 778-5127  
**E-mail:** Bob.Godfrey@cga.ct.gov

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



# State Representative Bob Godfrey

## NEWS For SENIORS

PROUDLY SERVING THE  
110th DISTRICT OF DANBURY



# Rep. Bob Godfrey Reports To Seniors

## Conservators and Probate Appeals



*"By working closely with Danbury's own Judge Dianne Yamin, President of the Probate Court Assembly, we are making the courts more efficient and more user friendly."*

A conservator is a person given the legal power to be responsible for someone incapable of caring for himself or herself. New changes help protect those who are under the care of, or being considered for, a conservator. Probate courts must now record proceedings on appointing and setting the powers of conservators, and all appeals hearings must be on record. The powers granted to the conservator must be the least necessary to meet the person's

needs. A conservator must follow certain requirements, including ascertaining the person's views, and making decisions that conform to the person's reasonable and informed preferences. A conserved person may also petition the probate court to end the conservatorship at any time. **(Public Act 07-116)**

## Changes to the Probate Court System

Connecticut's probate courts have authority over a wide variety of matters. For example, our Probate Courts administer estates, grant adoptions, probate wills, and appoint guardians. The Probate Court Administrator will be able to transfer and reassign pending cases if court business has not been conducted in a timely manner. Probate Courts will be required to operate a minimum of 20 hours a week. The Probate Administrator, together with the Probate Court Assembly, is given more oversight and enforcement authority over individual Probate Courts, and an appeals process will be in place for a Probate Judge to challenge enforcement actions. **(Public Act 07-184)**

## Senior Driving Insurance Discount



As of October 1, 2007, drivers aged 60-years-old and up will be eligible for an automobile insurance policy premium discount after successfully completing a Department of Motor Vehicles approved accident prevention course. Current law covers drivers aged 62 and up. This is a great opportunity to stay safe and save money. For more information contact AAA (765-4222) or AARP (1-888-687-2277) who are the currently approved providers of this course. **(Public Act 07-5)**

## Veteran's Funerals

Any protest at the funeral of a veteran will be a Class A misdemeanor, punishable by up to one year in prison, or a fine of up to \$2,000. Protesters must stay at least 150 feet away from any part of the ceremony. Honor is the only demonstration that should be present at our veterans' funerals. **(Public Act 07-98)**

## Wheelchair Transfer Safety

A new law requires that certain public transport vehicles with wheelchair lifts are equipped with a device that will secure wheelchairs to the lift. This device will ensure that the wheelchair does not come off the lift while a person is being moved. This small, inexpensive measure will reduce incidents of injury and death amongst our most vulnerable citizens. **(Public Act 07-134)**



## Long-Term Care Insurance Policies



Lower insurance premiums are possible for those who wish to enroll in a new Long-Term Care Policy. This new policy permits an individual to underwrite their long-term care costs for a period of up to two years while being protected by a long-term care insurance policy afterwards. An irrevocable trust fund must be in place and of a size deemed sufficient to cover costs of care before the long-term care policy protection begins. **(Public Act 07-226)**

## Connecticut Homecare Option Program

To enable more seniors to live at home and delay the need for costly nursing home care, we have created the Connecticut Homecare Option Program. This program allows participants to make deposits into a Homecare Trust Fund account. Interest earned on fund accounts will be exempt from state income tax. The participant or a designated beneficiary can later withdraw funds to pay for qualified home care expenses. Any unspent account funds will become part of a beneficiary's estate when he or she dies. Additionally, to help encourage home care options, seniors can now hire their own personal care assistance attendants directly instead of going through a home health care agency. **(Public Act 07-130)**



**Questions? Contact: Bob at 1-800-842-1902**