



Dear Friend,

Improving the quality of life for older adults was a top priority during the 2014 legislative session. From more support for seniors to stay in their homes to common-sense consumer protections, we enacted legislation on a range of issues to improve the lives of all Connecticut residents.

In this newsletter I highlight some noteworthy accomplishments of the session affecting senior citizens. If you would like more information about these, or any other issue, please call me at 800-842-8267 or email me your thoughts at Gregory.Haddad@cga.ct.gov.

As always, I look forward to hearing from you.

Warmest regards,

Keep In Touch

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MANSFIELD | 54TH HOUSE DISTRICT



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SENIOR UPDATE

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HELPING OUR SENIORS

There are several programs that may help you in meeting your needs. I hope you find this information useful.

CONNECTICUT HOME CARE PROGRAM FOR ELDERS

This program helps Connecticut seniors who are physically and financially struggling to meet their basic needs. For more information, or to start the application process, please call 1-855-6CONNECT (1-855-626-6632).

MONEY FOLLOWS THE PERSON PROGRAM

The program uses Medicaid funding to help elderly and disabled people live independently in their homes as an alternative to long-term institutional care following a stay in a nursing home or other health care setting of at least six months. Learn more by calling 1-855-6CONNECT (1-855-626-6632).

MEDICARE SAVINGS PROGRAMS

There are a variety of beneficial programs to help seniors pay for their Medicare Part B premiums. Learn more by calling 1-855-6CONNECT (1-855-626-6632).

STATE SUPPLEMENTAL PROGRAM

Financial assistance may be available to eligible seniors, disabled persons, and the blind for the purpose of supplementing other monthly income such as Social Security or Supplemental Security Income (SSI). To see if you qualify, call 1-855-6CONNECT (1-855-626-6632).

THE OFFICE OF THE HEALTHCARE ADVOCATE

If you are experiencing trouble with your healthcare coverage, call 866-466-4446.

**MANY OF THESE PROGRAMS
ARE AVAILABLE THROUGH THE
DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL SERVICES.
LEARN MORE AT: WWW.CT.GOV/DSS**

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
GREGORY HADDAD
MANSFIELD
54TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

HELPING SENIORS REMAIN IN THEIR HOMES

Most seniors would prefer to live in their own homes for as long as possible. We have taken steps to help make this happen. This year we created a \$6 million grant program for home modifications and other assistive technology that will allow people to remain in their homes longer.

The program is open to seniors and individuals with disabilities who are at risk of being unable to live independently without the modifications. An individual must have an income that is 400% below the federal poverty level.

PA 14-73



The American Association of Retired Persons (AARP) honored Rep. Haddad for his leadership on behalf of Connecticut's residents. He is pictured with AARP's director, Nora Duncan.

LONG-TERM CARE INSURANCE PREMIUMS

Consumers who plan ahead for their long-term health and medical needs deserve to be fully informed about the insurance products they are purchasing. New legislation requires issuers of long-term care insurance policies to spread premium-rate increases of 20% or more over at least three years. The new measure also requires carriers to notify policyholders of a rate increase and the option of reducing benefits to reduce the premium. *PA 14-10*

ELDERLY RENTAL REBATE PROGRAM

This session, we reopened the rental rebate program for the elderly and people with total and permanent disabilities. \$6.5 million in rental relief will be available to seniors, allowing an additional 12,700 seniors to receive a renter's rebate. *PA 14-217*

PROTECTING AGAINST LIFE INSURANCE POLICY CANCELLATIONS

Beginning next year, insurers issuing individual life insurance policies must notify applicants of their right to designate a third party to receive policy cancellation notices due to premium nonpayment. Applicants may make a designation when applying for insurance or at any time the insurance is in force. This change will help consumers ensure their policies will not be cancelled if they do not have access to their bills for any reason, such as an extended hospitalization. *PA 14-108*

MEDICAID COVERAGE FOR OVER-THE-COUNTER DRUGS

We expanded the list of over-the-counter drugs that medical assistance programs can pay for to include aspirin to prevent cardiovascular disease for men age 45-79 and women age 55-79. *PA 14-217*