

HELPING OUR SENIORS

There are several programs that may help meet 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

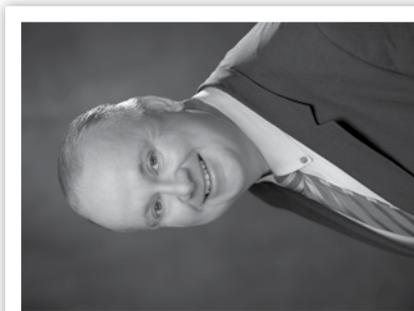
If you are experiencing trouble with your healthcare coverage, call 866-466-4446.

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

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE
JOHN HAMPTON

SIMSBURY | 16TH HOUSE DISTRICT



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

**John
HAMPTON**

**SIMSBURY
16TH HOUSE DISTRICT**



SENIOR UPDATE

Dear Friend,

As a member of the Aging Committee, I championed many issues critical to improving the quality of life for senior citizens 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 topics, or any other issue, please call me at 860.240.8585 or email me your thoughts at John.Hampton@cga.ct.gov

As always, I look forward to hearing from you.

Warmest regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "John Hampton".

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STATE REPRESENTATIVE
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SIMSBURY
16TH ASSEMBLY DISTRICT

HOME- AND COMMUNITY-BASED CARE

The Connecticut Home Care Program for the Elderly (CHCPE) provides home-health and community-based services to frail elders who are at risk of needing long-term institutional care, helping them live independently in their homes. CHCPE is a Medicaid-waiver and state-funded program. A new law eliminates the cost cap for community-based and waiver-funded services. The cap currently is 60% of the weighted average cost of care in skilled-nursing and intermediate-care facilities. *PA 14-142*

In addition, the Commission on Aging will study the availability and cost-effectiveness of CHCPE programs and investigate private funding sources to support expansion of community-based services for elderly persons and those with Alzheimer's, enabling them to live at home for as long as possible. *PA 14-6*

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*

EXPANSION OF SMALL HOUSE NURSING HOME PILOT

To improve the quality of life for nursing home residents and provide nursing home care in a more home-like setting, we expanded the number of small house nursing homes that the Department of Social Services can support. The bill eliminates the cap on the number of homes, and the number of program beds. Small house nursing homes are modeled like a private home. *PA 14-95*

AGING IN PLACE

Helping people stay in the community as they age is a basic goal of the state's long-term care plan. The livable communities' initiative helps municipal and state leaders design communities with the infrastructure, affordable and accessible housing, community services, and transportation options to allow residents to age in place. As part of the initiative, the Aging Commission will highlight communities that have implemented programs allowing individuals to stay in their homes longer. The Aging and Social Services Departments also will recommend ways to improve nutrition services for the elderly. *PA 14-73*

TO LEARN MORE, PLEASE VISIT WWW.LIVABLECT.ORG

ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND DEMENTIA

A new law ensures that a broad range of personnel who work with older residents and the community are trained and sensitive to the unique needs of individuals with Alzheimer's and dementia. An estimated 66% of nursing home residents have cognitive impairment and 70% of individuals with the disease live in the community. The practical training for caregivers addresses a need identified by the General Assembly's task force on Alzheimer's and dementia. *PA 14-194*



John joins seniors and town officials from Simsbury at the January Bond Commission meeting, where \$250,000 was given to Simsbury for the design of a new senior center.

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*

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. *PA 14-108*

REVERSE MORTGAGE TASK FORCE

A new task force to study the reverse mortgage industry will examine consumer protection and other best practices of the industry. It also will review existing and proposed federal regulations governing consumer protections in reverse mortgage transactions. *PA 14-89*

SENIOR SAFETY ZONES TASK FORCE

A task force will study the establishment of senior safety zones to protect senior citizens from sexual offenders required to register by law. It will examine best practices nationwide for protecting seniors. *SA 14-20*

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*