



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
Jack Hennessy

Representing Bridgeport
127th House District

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Dear Neighbors,

I wanted to keep everyone updated on the Affordable Care Act and remind constituents about all of the assistance available to sign up. Connecticut’s online process has thankfully not suffered any major glitches – please take a moment, navigate the website www.accesshealthct.com, and see for yourself.

As the 2014 legislative session gets underway, I will once again introduce legislation to address the problem of City of Bridgeport employees serving on the City Council. I will be following my “Conflict of Interest Bill” closely this session in order to move forward on this important issue.

In addition, as chair of the Veterans’ Committee, I can assure you that members will be hard at work this session getting our returning overseas military back into the civilian workforce. We will look at applying Military Occupational Specialty (M.O.S.) codes towards the qualifications when applying for jobs - in many instances veterans training far exceeds civilian training. The Step Up program has also proven to be an effective jobs tool for veterans and we will be looking to keep it funded.

If you have any other questions, please do not hesitate to get in touch with me.

Sincerely,

STATE REPRESENTATIVE
Jack Hennessy



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Update: Access Health CT



UPDATE ABOUT ACCESS HEALTH CT

You may have heard about computer problems on health insurance exchange websites across the country, making it hard for people to sign up – that hasn't happened in Connecticut!

Over 121,000 people have enrolled in a health plan since October 1, 2013, surpassing the state goal of enrolling 100,000 residents by March 31, 2014.

CAN ANYONE USE ACCESS HEALTH CT?

Access Health CT was created to make health care coverage accessible to all Connecticut residents who do not already have access to affordable health care coverage through another source. While not everyone will be able to get assistance to pay for health insurance through Access Health CT, almost anyone can use the health insurance marketplace to find and enroll in a plan or certain public health care programs.

- As of January 1, 2014, you can no longer be denied health insurance because of a pre-existing condition.
- The marketplace is not just for the uninsured. Anyone can shop for name-brand health insurance on Access Health CT's website if they do not already have affordable health care coverage.
- You can get FREE help getting more information, deciding what option is best for you and filling out paperwork.

WILL THERE BE DISCOUNTS OR SUBSIDIES?

Yes! A family of four making up to \$94,000 may qualify for discounts. And tax credits will subsidize a substantial percentage of the cost of premiums for most families and individuals.

Subsidies come in the form of advance premium tax credits. This has been described by Access Health CT as a "discount." If you're single and making up to \$46,000 you may also qualify for discounts.

***The actual premium and the portion that is subsidized depends on household income.**

WILL THIS REALLY BE AFFORDABLE COVERAGE?

Access Health CT will make quality health insurance plans available at the lowest possible cost. Competition between insurance companies in this new marketplace will help keep costs down. Also, many people will qualify for discounts, or may qualify for public health care programs at low or no cost.

WHEN CAN I ENROLL IN COVERAGE THROUGH ACCESS HEALTH CT?

The first open enrollment period began October 1, 2013 and ends March 31, 2014.

Like other insurance programs, there will be an annual open enrollment period going forward. Existing users will be notified of the open enrollment period every year.

- Open enrollment this year will last until March 31.
- **After March 31, 2014 you have to wait until October 15, 2014 to enroll**, unless you have a qualifying life event (i.e. job loss, divorce).
- More info on this: <http://1.usa.gov/16KZeuj>

Sign Up For Email Updates
housedems.ct.gov/Hennessy

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facebook.com/CTHouseDemocrats



WHERE DO I SIGN UP?

Go on the website (www.accesshealthct.com) to get more info or begin the enrollment process, call Access Health CT to compare the plans, or speak with someone knowledgeable of the plans to find out if you qualify for a tax credit.

If you want to speak to someone face to face (or if you have a more complicated situation, for example if you are buying insurance for your small business) the call center reps will refer you to one of hundreds of specially-trained brokers and community organizations.

(1-855-805-HEALTH) (1-855-805-4325)

Facebook page: www.facebook.com/AccessHealthCT

Twitter: [@accesshealthct](https://twitter.com/accesshealthct)

Youtube: www.youtube.com/user/AccessHealthCT

IN-PERSON ASSISTANCE

The website now includes a list of navigators and in-person assisters, who are staffers of community-based organizations trained to assist with enrollment. To find a list of those located in your town, visit: <http://bit.ly/17UdMpl>

Access Health CT has set up storefront locations in New Haven and New Britain and will be doing mobile enrollment fairs at locations around the state.

For more facts about the health care laws take this quiz:

<http://learn.accesshealthct.com/mythfactquiz/>

To find out how much you can save, check out their calculator:

<http://learn.accesshealthct.com/how-to-save/>

