



Protecting our Seniors

While a majority of our time was spent working on a budget, the regular 2009 legislative session has ended, and I want to share with you some important steps we took to make Connecticut a safer place for seniors.

I have outlined a few key bills that my colleagues and I enacted this year. As always, please contact me if you have questions or concerns about this year's legislative session, the budget, or any other matter.

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PREVENTING FINANCIAL CRIMES AGAINST SENIORS

To protect seniors from fraudulent marketing practices, we prohibited financial consultants and life insurance agents from advertising that they are certified to advise seniors unless they have completed a qualified training program or meet state standards for certification. Identity theft is a growing problem; it is especially hard on seniors. To help protect our seniors we have increased the penalty for anyone caught victimizing a person who is age 60 or older. Hopefully, this will help deter identity thieves.

LOCATING MISSING SENIORS

Connecticut now has Silver Alert, which is modeled after the Amber Alert system for missing children. This will help locate missing seniors and mentally impaired adults by broadcasting an emergency missing persons notice to radio and television stations through the Emergency Alert System, as well as through 2,800 CT Lottery system retailers and electronic billboards.

PROTECTING PATIENTS AT NURSING HOMES

Nursing Homes can no longer solicit gifts or donations as a condition of admission, expedited admission or continued stay for all patients and that protection has been extended to third parties, such as friends and family. Previously, only patients who were receiving Medicaid were protected.

EXPANDING ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE HOMECARE

We have expanded access to personal care assistance services through the Connecticut Homecare Program for the Elders. These services provide an alternative to nursing homes by aiding with daily living activities to help seniors remain independent.

INSURING ACCESS TO DISCOUNT PROGRAMS

To make sure that seniors can take advantage of all discounts offered to them by businesses, stores must now have a prominent sign at the cash register, store entrance or point of display stating their discount policy, including the qualifying age and discount percentage or dollar amount.

Useful Numbers

INFOLINE	211
Consumer Protection	800-842-2649
CT Tax Department	860-297-5962
Healthcare Advocate	866-466-4446
Unclaimed Property Hotline	800-833-7318
US Veterans' Benefits	800-827-1000
ConnPACE	800-423-5026
CT Veterans Affairs	800-550-0000
DSS Elder Services	866-218-6631
Medicare Hotline	800-633-4227



For more information please contact me:

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