



## For Seniors, a Safer & Healthier Connecticut

The 2009 legislative session has ended. While a majority of our time was spent working on a budget, we did advance several pieces of legislation during the regular session that will help our citizens.

Outlined here are a few key bills that will make Connecticut a healthier and safer place for seniors. As always, I look forward to hearing from you if you have questions or concerns about this year's legislative session, the budget, or any other matter.

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*the House Democrats of Connecticut*

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# MARY MUSHINSKY

## State Representative

Representing Wallingford  
85<sup>th</sup> House District

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# State Representative **MARY MUSHINSKY**

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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.

### **PROTECTING PATIENTS AT NURSING HOMES**

We expanded the Nursing Home Bill of Rights to prohibit the solicitation of gifts or donations as a condition of admission for all patients and extending that protection to third parties, such as families and friends.

### **EXPANDING ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE HOMECARE**

New rules expand access to affordable personal care assistance under the Connecticut Homecare Program for Elders. This can provide assistance with daily living activities and help many seniors remain independent in their homes rather than enter a nursing home.

### **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.

### **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 & electronic billboards.

### **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 on these or other legislation please contact:*

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