



*the House Democrats of Connecticut*

# KEVIN RYAN

**State Representative**

Serving Bozrah, Franklin, Lebanon & Montville

139<sup>th</sup> House District

## For Seniors, a Safer & Healthier Connecticut

These are challenging economic times, but there are services that may assist you, a family member or a friend and I wanted to make sure that you have the needed information.

As always, please contact me if you have questions or concerns about this year's legislative session, or any other matter.

Have a safe and happy holiday!

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## HELPING WITH GROCERY BILLS

The Food Stamp program is now called the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and it is easier for seniors to qualify for SNAP. SNAP helps seniors and families afford the cost of food at grocery stores. Income eligibility requirements were recently raised, meaning a household of two can earn up to \$2,248 monthly and qualify for assistance.

[www.ct.gov/SNAP](http://www.ct.gov/SNAP) | 800.742.6906

## ENERGY ASSISTANCE

It is time to start planning for the colder months ahead. Home heating assistance programs have already begun to accept energy applications for the upcoming winter. These programs are designed to help qualifying homeowners and renters with their primary heating bills.

*Thames Valley Council for Community Action*  
860.889.1365 ext. 9

## EXPANDING ACCESS TO AFFORDABLE HOMECARE

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

## CONNPACE PLUS

More seniors and people with disabilities are eligible to participate in the federal Medicare Savings Program (MSP) under a new law that effectively extends the program to people with incomes as high as the ConnPACE limits (\$25,100 for individuals and \$33,800 for married couples in 2009). The Department of Social Services pays for MSP participants' Medicare Part A or Part B premiums, or both. And qualifying for MSP also qualifies people for another federal program that pays some or all of their Medicare Part D drug benefit premium and any Part D "doughnut hole" charges. Participants also pay lower co-payments for each prescription.

## 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 bills or other issues please contact:*

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