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Dear Friends:

First, I wish to thank you for giving me another opportunity to be your State Representative in Hartford. I am honored once again by your trust.

As a representative of the 60th District, I am continually working to ensure the health of Windsor and Windsor Locks as well as the whole of Connecticut. Inside, are just two of the few bills I introduced regarding chronic diseases and health technology which I hope you find valuable.

If I can be of any assistance to you during this upcoming session please call my office at 203-8531.

Have a safe winter season!

Sincerely,

Peggy Sayers  
State Representative

State Representative  
Peggy Sayers  
Legislative Office Building, Room 3004  
Hartford, CT 06106



# State Representative Peggy Sayers

## Making Government Work For You!



# State Representative Peggy Sayers

## **Busy Adult - Want to Complete Your Degree? Charter Oak State College might be your answer.....**

Charter Oak State College was established in 1973, to help busy adult learners achieve their educational and career goals through time-flexible and economic degree completion programs.

These programs allow adults to conveniently plan their study schedule around commitments to job and family.

Charter Oak State College is unique –

- You can plan your own degree with a personal counselor whose expertise is in your chosen discipline.
- You earn credits through a variety of options: Charter Oak online courses, standardized testing, military training and education, just to name a few.
- You transfer previously earned credits regardless of age – up to 90 accepted from two-year colleges.

Charter Oak offers over 150 online courses. You can select from more than 150 Charter Oak 5, 8 and 15-week quality online courses to complete your bachelor's degree in: American Studies, Business Administration, Health Care Administration, Organizational Leadership, Organizational Management or Public Safety Administration.



Charter Oak has earned nationwide recognition as the college that offers degrees without boundaries. Charter Oak is accredited by the State of Connecticut and the New England Association of Schools and Colleges. For more information, visit our website at [www.charteroak.edu](http://www.charteroak.edu) or e-mail [info@charteroak.edu](mailto:info@charteroak.edu) or call (860) 832-3876.

*I realized the importance of education but attending college right after high school was not an option for me...I went right to work. Life happened...and like many people in the midst of raising a family and working I accumulated several credits over several years from a variety of colleges...I never applied them towards a formal degree program.*

*As an adult learner Charter Oak State College was the first college that truly treated me as such and enabled me to concentrate on, and obtain my educational goals but not at the expense of my family and responsibilities at work. Charter Oak State College made the difference in my life.*

*Chief Michael J. Fallon  
State Capitol Police Department*

## **Ophthalmic Design & Dispensing Program**

Middlesex Community College (MxCC) is the only college offering Optician curriculum in Connecticut. It is an educational facility that offers students experience in managing, ordering, and manufacturing in the eye-care business. Through the Ophthalmic Design & Dispensing Program at MxCC, people who cannot afford eye-care or who have no eye-care insurance are provided free or reduced-cost eye glasses. Because the Ophthalmic Design and Dispensing Program at Middlesex Community College is a state-run facility, under budget, it offers to fill prescriptions at discount chiefly by invitation, on an essential need basis. The program also considers patients by appointment, which can be made by calling (860) 343-5800.

I know that we can improve the quality of health care we receive as well as lower the cost and increase access. In order to facilitate that end, these are two of the bills I sponsored in the Public Health Committee:

### **AN ACT CONCERNING CHRONIC CARE MANAGEMENT. (HB 6976)**

This legislation is aimed at establishing a statewide five year strategic chronic disease management plan and contains various wellness and quality outcome data related provisions. We believe that such a focus on better managing chronic disease, promoting wellness initiatives and disclosing quality data will go a long way to improving the quality of the state's health care system. When we better manage chronic disease, we improve quality and lower cost. Chronic conditions such as cardiovascular and respiratory diseases, cancer, and diabetes are major causes of death, hospitalization, long-term disability, and health care costs in the United States. They are, in some part, preventable, and if not prevented, then controllable. Promoting wellness and managing chronic diseases are long-term strategies states can implement to benefit residents and reduce the growth in health care costs.

### **AN ACT CONCERNING HEALTH INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY. (HB 6839)**

A bill to develop and implement a state-wide health information technology plan, is the first step to implement electronic medical records. It will also allow us to gather important health data which goes a long way towards improving quality of health care.

Reducing waste, such as excess paperwork, is a critical part of the equation to making health care more affordable and cost efficient. If we are going to successfully improve access, increase quality, bring thousands of residents currently lacking coverage into our healthcare system, cost containment is going to be key.