

## IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Connecticut Legal Assistance .....1-800-413-7796  
Consumer Protection.....1-800-842-2649  
Unclaimed Property Hotline.....1-800-833-7318  
CT Tax Department .....1-860-297-5962  
Veterans' Benefits and Information.....1-800-827-1000  
ConnPACE .....1-800-423-5026  
Medicare Hotline .....1-800-633-4227  
CT Partnership for Long-Term Care .....1-800-547-3443  
Infoline .....211  
CT Department of Veterans Affairs.....1-800-550-0000  
CHOICES .....1-800-944-9422  
Healthcare Advocate .....1-866-HMO-4446  
DSS Elder Services .....1-866-218-6631  
Dept. of Insurance Consumer Affairs ...1-800-203-3447  
Area Agency on Aging.....860-887-3561  
North Stonington Senior Center.....203-946-6025  
Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center.....203-946-8543

Provided by Representative Diana Urban  
1-800-842-8267

**Diana S. Urban • Representing Stonington \* North Stonington**



Diana Urban  
State Representative

LEGISLATIVE OFFICE BUILDING, ROOM 4057  
HARTFORD CT 06106-1591  
AT THE CAPITOL: 1-800-842-8267 (TOLL FREE)  
IN THE DISTRICT: (860) 535-4868  
E-MAIL: DIANA.URBAN@CGA.CT.GOV

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State Representative  
**Diana S. Urban**



# Senior Issues

**43<sup>rd</sup> District**  
Serving Stonington & North Stonington

## New Standards for Hospice Care

If our loved ones are terminally ill, we often rely upon hospice care. Hospice programs are known for high standards of compassion and care. To maintain this reputation, before an organization can use the title of hospice, or describe itself as a hospice care program, it must now be licensed by the Department of Public Health and certified by Medicare. All organizations seeking their initial hospice license must agree to provide hospice care services for terminally ill patients on a 24-hour basis. Services must be provided in private homes, nursing and residential care homes, or other specialized residences which provide supportive services. To maintain appropriate levels of care, an organization must also show the Department of Public Health that it has the qualified personnel to provide the services.

## Administration of Flu and Pneumonia Vaccines

To help prevent the spread of flu or pneumonia, we have worked to increase access to vaccinations. Nurses employed by licensed home healthcare or homemaker-home health agencies can now provide these vaccines to patients in their homes without obtaining a physician's order for each shot. Trained nurses have been running flu clinics outside the home for years, and this new law makes it easier for these professionals to keep us healthy.



## Connecticut Homecare Option Program

To enable more seniors to live at home and delay the need for costly nursing home care, we have created the Connecticut Homecare Option Program. This program allows participants to make deposits into a Homecare Trust Fund account. Interest earned on fund accounts will be exempt from state income tax. The participant or a designated beneficiary can later withdraw funds to pay for qualified home care expenses. Any unspent account funds will become part of a beneficiary's estate when he or she dies. Additionally, to help encourage home care options, seniors can now hire their own personal care assistance attendants directly instead of going through a home health care agency.

## Prepaid Medicare Premiums

No one should be penalized for prepaying a Medicare premium. If a person cancels a Medicare Supplement Policy prior to its expiration date, they will now receive a refund on any prepaid premium for coverage that will not be used because of the cancellation.

## Senior Driving Insurance Discount

As of October 1st, Drivers aged 60 and up will be eligible for an automobile insurance policy premium discount after successfully completing a Department of Motor Vehicles approved accident prevention course. Current law covers drivers aged 62 and up. This is a great opportunity to stay safe and save money. For more information contact AAA or AARP, the currently approved providers of this course.



## Long-Term Care Insurance Policies

Lower insurance premiums are possible for those who wish to enroll in a new Long-Term Care Policy. This new policy permits an individual to underwrite their long-term care costs for a period of up to two years while being protected by a long-term care insurance policy afterwards. An irrevocable trust fund must be in place and of a size deemed sufficient to cover costs of care before the long-term care policy protection begins.

## Duties of Unlicensed Assistive Personnel in Residential Homes

Unlicensed assistive personnel in residential care homes may now perform limited health-related activities for residents. They may obtain and record a resident's blood pressure, temperature, and weight. They may also assist diabetic residents in using glucose monitors for documenting blood glucose levels.

## Alzheimer's Programs

Unlicensed and unregistered staff who provide direct care to patients in Alzheimer's special care programs must be given a minimum of one hour of Alzheimer's and dementia specific training every year. The Statewide Respite Care Program is also now open for people with Alzheimer's disease who receive Medicaid.

