



## 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 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!

Diana S. Urban  
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800.842.8267  
860.240.8585

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State Representative

[www.housedems.ct.gov/Urban](http://www.housedems.ct.gov/Urban)

# DIANA S. URBAN

State Representative

Serving Stonington and North Stonington

43<sup>rd</sup> House District

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# State Representative **DIANA S. URBAN**

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*Rep. Urban with James Trant, a World War II veteran, at a medal ceremony in Mystic.*

## For Seniors, a Safer & Healthier Connecticut

### HELPING WITH GROCERY BILLS

The Food Stamp program is now called Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and is easier for seniors to qualify for. 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 not too late to apply for home heating assistance programs. These programs are designed to help qualifying homeowners and renters with their primary heating bills. If you need assistance, call my office at 1.800.842.8267 or *Infoline at 211*.

*Stonington Social Services* | 860.535.5084  
*Pawcatuck Neighborhood Center* | 860.599.3285

### 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 starting October 1.

### 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.

### 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.

### 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

### 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 to remain independent in their homes rather than enter a nursing home.