

STATE REPRESENTATIVE  
**Mary Welander**

**DERBY, ORANGE, WOODBRIDGE | 114TH HOUSE DISTRICT**

**Property Tax Relief**

The legislature passed a law to give towns the ability to increase eligibility for senior property tax credit relief by lowering the earliest qualifying age from 70 to 65. (PA 21-84)



(Picture taken before the pandemic.)

**Pension and Annuity Tax Exemption**

Connecticut will continue to phase out the state income tax on pensions and annuities by exempting 28% over the next 2 years, which will exempt in total 70% of this income from state taxes for most seniors.

**Table 1: Schedule for Deducting Percentage of Pension and Annuity Income from Connecticut Income Taxes**

<i>Tax Year</i>	<i>Percent of Pension and Annuity Income Exempt from Income Tax</i>
2019	14%
2020	28%
2021	42%
2022	56%
2023	70%
2024	84%
2025 and thereafter	100%

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**PROUDLY SERVING DERBY, ORANGE, WOODBRIDGE**



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**STANDING WITH SENIORS**

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

I hope this message finds you and yours well. We have been working hard to create policies and programs to help seniors. I want to share with you some of the legislation passed this year to make our state a better place to live and retire in.

The pandemic has brought to light many issues within our nursing home facilities and senior programs. Throughout this past legislative session, I fought for legislation that addressed these concerns.

If you have questions, or if you or someone you know is in need of assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at 860-240-8500 or email me at [Mary.Welander@cga.ct.gov](mailto:Mary.Welander@cga.ct.gov).

I look forward to hearing from you.

All the best,

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# STATE REPRESENTATIVE MARY WELANDER

STANDING WITH SENIORS

## Reporting Elder Abuse

The legislature added licensed behavior analysts and paratransit drivers to the list of professionals who must report to the Department of Social Services when they suspect an elderly person needs protective services or has been abused, neglected, exploited, or abandoned. (PA 21-121)

## Community Response Education Program

A new law expands the state's Community Response Education Program to provide training for police departments, municipal officials, seniors and their families on preventing sexual abuse and assault.

This program offers certain resources to neighborhoods and municipalities when they are notified that a registered sex offender is living there or plans to do so. (PA 21-7)

## Long-Term Care Insurance

By law, long-term care insurers filing for a rate increase of at least 20% must spread the premium increase over at least three years. A new law increases long-term care consumer protections by:

- (1) prohibiting insurers from filing a new rate increase during this three-year period and
- (2) requiring the insurance commissioner to develop affordable benefit options that insurers must offer to policyholders if they file a premium rate increase of 20% or more. (PA 21-150)

## Employment Age Discrimination in the Workforce

We passed legislation to make requesting or requiring a prospective employee's age, birth date, or graduation date on an initial employment application a discriminatory employment practice. (PA 21-69)



## Woodbridge Senior Center gets \$300,000

I am proud to have advocated and secured \$300,000 from the state for the Woodbridge Senior Center to renovate the facility and better serve the community.

## Homemaker-Companion Agency Background Checks

A new law requires homemaker-companion agencies to conduct a national background check on prospective employees rather than only reviewing CT records. The new law also prohibits agencies from hiring individuals with certain recent criminal histories, including convictions related to fraud or theft, controlled substances, and patient neglect or abuse. (PA 21-37)

## Visitation Rights in Long-Term Care Facilities

Under a new law, residents of certain long-term care facilities can designate an essential support person to visit despite visitation restrictions imposed on other visitors. The act also expands the state long-term care ombudsman's duties to include providing services designed to address the impact of the role of essential support persons on residents' health, safety, and well-being. (PA 21-71)

## Minimum Staffing Levels

A new law requires the Department of Public Health to modify minimum staffing levels in nursing homes to ensure that residents receive at least three hours of direct care per day, rather than the 1.9 hours as under prior law. (PA 21-185)

## Patients' Bill of Rights

The legislature expanded the nursing home patients' bill of rights, which applies to patients in nursing homes, residential care homes, and chronic disease hospitals. It also requires nursing homes to provide residents with free internet access, electricity, and a power source for this technology. The act adds the right to treat residents' living quarters as their own home, associate with the people they choose, and use virtual visitation and virtual monitoring technology. It also extends these rights to residents of assisted living facilities. (PA 21-55)

## Medicare Supplement Plans

A new law allows insurers to issue Medicare Supplement policies (Medigap) and certificates for Medicare Plan D, in addition to Plans A, B, and C. These are standardized plans for which the federal government sets the benefits. Medigap plans generally cover certain expenses that Medicare does not cover. (PA 21-2, June Special Session)

## Useful Numbers

Derby Senior Center: 203-389-3429  
Orange Senior Center: 203-891-4784  
Woodbridge Senior Center: 203-389-3429  
Area Agency on Aging of South Central CT: 203-785-8533  
Derby Meals on Wheels, Contact TEAM, Inc.:  
203-736-5420 ext. 4225  
Department of Social Services: 855-626-6632  
Department of Rehabilitation Services: 800-537-2549  
Office of Aging and Disability Services: 860-424-5055  
Office of the Healthcare Advocate: 866-466-4446  
United Way Infoline (General Assistance): Dial 2-1-1  
or visit [www.211ct.org](http://www.211ct.org)  
The Attorney General's Elder Justice Hotline: 860-808-5555