



Did you know that you can dial 2-1-1 for answers to a whole host of questions about Connecticut services? Connecticut is the first state in the nation to provide statewide 2-1-1 service. When you dial 2-1-1, you'll be connected with the United Way of Connecticut's **Infoline**, a service that points individuals to resources that can help them with everything from simple problems to crises.

The professional caseworkers who answer the phones use a continuously updated database of community services, which includes more than 4,200 agencies and 38,000 services in Connecticut, to direct callers to a service that may be able to help.

What types of questions can you ask? Here is a sampling:

- *What should I do with a stray animal I found?*
- *Where can I locate emergency shelter for my family and myself?*
- *Where can I volunteer in my town?*
- *Where can I find a licensed child care center?*
- *Am I eligible for food stamps?*
- *How do I obtain a passport?*
- *I suspect my teenager of drug abuse; where can I find help?*

Callers in crisis...

Call 2-1-1 for quick crisis intervention.

2-1-1 service is available 24 hours a day,
365 days a year.



STATE REPRESENTATIVE

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State Representative Roberta Willis



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Legislative Update

2008

News You Can Use

“Money Follows the Person” An Alternative to Nursing Home Care

Seniors should have the option to live at home rather than in nursing homes. I am supporting a legislative initiative which would expand access to the state’s home care program known as “Money Follows the Person.” This program allows the use of Medicaid funds to provide people with care in their own homes as an alternative to living in nursing homes. Living in one’s own home is not only desirable for many, but it can be significantly less expensive than nursing home care.



Prescription Drug Coverage for Seniors “ConnPACE PLUS”

An innovative plan is being proposed to expand the state’s ConnPACE prescription drug subsidy program. This legislation would increase the number of people eligible for drug benefits by raising income eligibility levels. Eligible participants would have their Medicare drug premiums, and in some cases their Medicare co-payments, covered. This could save a low-income senior, on average, \$1,157 per year at the current rate. In addition, he or she would be entitled to federal Medicare drug benefits at a much lower co-payment.



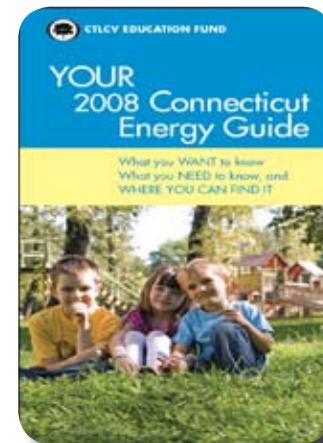
Questions? Concerns? Representative Roberta Willis 1-800-842-8267

Additional Legislation I Am Working On This Session:

- **Increasing Medicaid Coverage to Include Hospice Care**
- **Addressing Solutions to Global Warming in Connecticut**
- **Expanding the Pilot Program for Persons with Autism Spectrum Disorders**
 - **Creating a New Nursing Program at Northwestern Connecticut Community College**
- **Increasing Access in Rural Areas of Connecticut to High Speed Broadband Access**
 - **Preserving Open Space and Farmland**
 - **Providing Assistance to Dairy Farmers**
- **Funding a State Set-Aside Program for Contractors who are Disabled Veterans and a Micro-Loan Program to Assist Veteran-Owned Businesses**
 - **Protecting Taxpayer Information and Preventing Identity Theft**

Connecticut Energy Guide

The passing of Connecticut’s 2007 energy bill (PA 07-242) made significant changes to the state’s energy policy. This new legislation expands programs as well as funding for investments to make Connecticut consumers more energy efficient. The Connecticut League of Conservation Voters has printed a guide, which lists the available incentives for increasing energy efficiency and using clean, renewable energy sources in the community, business, and at home. You can access a free copy of YOUR 2008 Connecticut Energy Guide by logging on to www.conservationeducation.org or by calling 860-236-5442.



Connecticut Veterans’ Tuition Waiver Program



Eligible veterans may apply for waivers to attend classes at state public colleges. The waivers apply to all branches of the University of Connecticut, the Connecticut State University System, and the Com-

munity Technical Colleges. For more information on this program, contact any public college or university, or call the Education and Employment Information Center (EEIC) at: 1-800-842-0229.