

# SENIOR UPDATE

Dear Neighbor,

We worked hard this session on a number of initiatives to help support seniors in Connecticut, including expanding the “Circuit Breaker” property tax relief program and implementing a tax break for seniors on social security or receiving pensions among many other new laws. This special newsletter provides an update on recent and current policy initiatives and proposals made at the state level to better support you and your ability to remain in CT. It also contains resources and contact information for senior services both at the state and local level.

If you have a question or concerns, or if I can support you in any way, please feel free to call me at 860-240-8769 or email me at [Kara.Rochelle@cga.ct.gov](mailto:Kara.Rochelle@cga.ct.gov).

To keep up with what’s going on at the Capitol, make sure to sign up for my email updates at [www.HouseDems.ct.gov/Rochelle](http://www.HouseDems.ct.gov/Rochelle).

Best regards,



Kara Rochelle

STATE REPRESENTATIVE

# Kara Rochelle

ANSONIA, DERBY | 104TH HOUSE DISTRICT

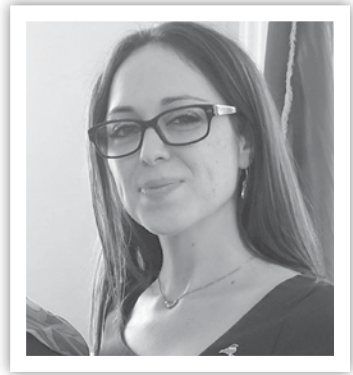
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STATE REPRESENTATIVE

# KARA ROCHELLE

## HEARING AID COVERAGE EXPANSION

A new law eliminates any age restrictions for mandated health insurance coverage for hearing aids, prohibiting any potential age discrimination by insurance companies. It also mandates that insurance policies must cover the cost of one hearing aid per ear within a 2-year period at minimum. Under prior law, policies could limit hearing aid coverage to \$1,000 which in most cases is not enough to cover the cost of a single hearing aid leaving, seniors owing thousands of dollars.

## NURSING HOME STAFFING LEVELS

New legislation requires nursing homes to calculate and publicly post on a daily basis information related to the number of nurses and nurse’s aides responsible for providing direct care to residents to ensure adequate staffing levels and greater transparency for residents.



## PROTECTING SENIORS IN LONG-TERM CARE

We expanded the list of disqualifying offenses during background checks for direct care employees and volunteers at long-term care facilities to include convictions for specified assault and abuse crimes against the elderly and individuals with disabilities. The bill also creates a publicly available elder abuse registry.

## STAYING RETIRED IN CONNECTICUT

Starting this year, a percentage of your pension or annuity will be exempted from state income taxes until 2025 when it will be 100% exempt (**see chart to left**), helping seniors afford to remain in CT. Qualifying income limits are \$75,000 for single filers or married people filing separately and \$100,000 for married people filing jointly.

We also increased the thresholds for Social Security tax exemption. If you make less than \$100,000 (married) or \$75,000 (individual) per year, 100% of your Social Security income is exempted from state income tax. If you make more than those amounts, 75% of your Social Security income is exempted from state income tax.

<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

## IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

**Ansonia Police Department (Non-Emergency)**  
203-735-1885

**Derby Police Department (Non-Emergency)**  
860-887-1755

**United Way Infoline (General Assistance)**  
Dial 2-1-1 or visit [www.211ct.org](http://www.211ct.org)

**Medicare**  
800-633-4227

**Center for Medicare Advocacy**  
800-262-4414

**Office of the Healthcare Advocate**  
866-466-4446

**Department of Social Services**  
855-626-6632

**Joseph Doyle (Ansonia) Senior Center**  
203-736-5933

**Derby Senior Center**  
203-736-1484

**Agency on Aging of South Central CT**  
203-785-8533

**Department of Rehabilitation Services**  
800-537-2549

Phone: 860-240-8769

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