



Dear Neighbor:

It is my pleasure to enclose information regarding programs, as well as new legislation, which affects the senior population in our state.

Please take a moment to review the enclosed information. I hope it may be of service to you or a loved one.

As always, it is an honor to serve you, and if there is any way in which I can assist you as your State Representative, do not hesitate to contact me.

Warmest regards,

Andres Ayala, Jr.

Working for You!



*State Representative
Andres Ayala, Jr.*

Legislative Office Building, Room 4022
Hartford, Connecticut 06106-1591

Toll-Free: 1-800-842-8267

E-Mail: Andres.Ayala@cga.ct.gov

PRSR STD
U.S. POSTAGE
PAID
HARTFORD, CT
Permit No. 3937

State Representative Andres Ayala, Jr.

Capitol News for Seniors

Proudly Representing Bridgeport's
128th District



Automobile Insurance Discounts for People Over the Age of 60

Previously, we passed legislation to provide auto insurance discounts to individuals over the age of 60. To qualify for a five percent discount on your premium, you must pass an approved safe-driver course. This year, we made it easier to qualify for the discount by allowing you to take the safe-driver course on the Internet. The legislation provides for a minimum discount of five percent that applies to the premium charges for the automobile for at least 24 months. Some insurance companies provide a discount of more than five percent, but you should contact your insurance company for more information. Those interested in an approved course should contact AARP or AAA for details.



Minority Health Advisory Commission

The health and well-being of Connecticut's residents is a top priority of the General Assembly. Reports have shown that many minority ethnic groups receive lower quality care than their counterparts, even when income, age, insurance, and health status are taken into consideration. To begin to address the myriad health care related disparities for members of the state's minority communities, the legislature passed a bill this session that establishes a 32-member Commission on Health Equity within the Office of the Health Care Advocate for administrative purposes. The office will work to eliminate disparities in health care based on race, ethnicity, and linguistic ability and improve the quality of health for all state residents.



Support for Grandparents & Other Relative Caregivers

Raising a child is not always an easy task. It can be even more difficult when a child's parents are not in the picture and other relatives, particularly grandparents, are given custodial rights. In an attempt to ease the burden on family members who are given custodial rights over a child, the state will now allow grandparents or other relative caregivers appointed through Superior Court, and who are not receiving subsidized guardianship or foster care payments from the Department of Children and Families (DCF), to apply for grants under the probate-court administered Kinship Fund and the Grandparents and Relatives Respite Fund. Prior to this, only guardians who were appointed through the probate court were allowed to receive financial support.



The CHOICES Program

The CHOICES program in Connecticut is a program for Health insurance assistance, Outreach, Information and referral services, Counseling, and Eligibility Screening. The CHOICES Program provides information to persons age 60 and older, as well as to persons with disabilities. It is an excellent source of information regarding senior services, referrals, and preliminary screening offers for more than 20 federal and state benefit programs. To address any problems or concerns with aging issues, call the CHOICES hotline at **1-800-994-9422** and ask to be connected with a counselor in your area.



“Money Follows the Person” Program

The legislature voted to 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 community-based settings, as an alternative to living in institutional settings. Our seniors should be given every opportunity to live in more comfortable environments. For more information, please contact the Department of Social Services at **(203) 551-2700**.



Important Numbers

Connecticut Legal Assistance.....	1-800-413-7796
Consumer Protection	1-800-842-2649
Unclaimed Property Hotline	1-800-833-7318
Tax Department.....	1-800-382-9463
Southwestern Connecticut Area Agency on Aging	1-203-333-9288
ConnPACE.....	1-800-423-5026
Medicare Hotline.....	1-800-633-4227
CT Partnership for Long-Term Care	1-800-547-3443
Elderly Services Division of the Department of Social Services	1-800-994-9422
Infoline.....	211