

Dear Friends and Neighbors,

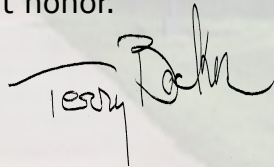
I want to thank you for placing your trust in me as your representative over the years. I love the job you have given me even during the times one just wants to pull their hair out. During my tenure in the legislature, much has changed in the world we live in and more and more challenges are delegated to the state and its people.

I believe nothing stands still, that things are always changing and evolving and that requires me to keep a fresh outlook and open mind. Many of my thoughts and ideas come from the people I represent and I appreciate the input.

Not too long ago there was an inherent belief that each generation would do better than the previous one. I want to keep that belief alive for our youth and continue to secure the same feelings among seniors. I believe that it is unacceptable in America to strive for anything less. My energies and thoughts are committed to restoring that belief through hard work, thoughtful planning and as always being direct and honest with you even when it may not be what you were hoping to hear.

As we go forward into the future we will be challenged with economic issues, rising energy prices and the burden each of us face as taxpayers. I am committed to working on solutions and mitigations to these problems. Together we can meet these challenges head on and keep working to make Stratford and all of Connecticut a better place to live.

Again, thank you for this great honor.



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2007 SENIOR ISSUES

STATE REPRESENTATIVE TERRY BACKER
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*STATE REPRESENTATIVE
TERRY BACKER
121ST DISTRICT*



**2007
Senior Issues**

Representing Stratford

CONNECTICUT HOME CARE OPTION PROGRAM

To enable more seniors to live at home and delay the need for costly nursing home care, we have created the Connecticut Homecare Option Program. This program allows participants to make deposits into a Homecare Trust Fund account. Interest earned on fund accounts will be exempt from state income tax. The participant or a designated beneficiary can later withdraw funds to pay for qualified home care expenses. Any unspent account funds will become part of a beneficiary's estate when he or she dies.

Additionally, to help encourage home care options, seniors can now hire their own personal care assistance attendants directly instead of going through a home health care agency.

CHOICES HEALTH INSURANCE ASSISTANCE PROGRAM



The CHOICES program has recently played a crucial role in assisting many aging people throughout the state. The CHOICES program now provides information and assistance as well as eligibility screening (through Benefits Check-Up) for many federal and state programs

and services, including long-term care and Medicare Part D, to older adults, persons with disabilities, their families, and professionals. This bill expands the statutory role of the Department of Social Services' CHOICES health insurance assistance program in publicizing information and providing advice to Medicare beneficiaries to specifically include the federal Medicare Part D prescription drug program and long-term care options in the state. The bill also requires CHOICES to collaborate with other state agencies and entities in developing consumer-oriented websites that provide information on Medicare plans, including Medicare Part D plans and available long-term care options.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION

Connecticut Legal Assistance.....	1-800-413-7796
Consumer Protection.....	1-800-842-2649
CT Tax Department	1-860-297-5962
Veterans' Benefits and Information ...	1-800-827-1000
ConnPACE.....	1-800-423-5026
Medicare Hotline	1-800-633-4227
CT Partnership for Long-Term Care...	1-800-547-3443
Infoline	211
CT Department of Veterans Affairs....	1-800-550-0000
CHOICES	1-800-944-9422
Healthcare Advocate	1-866-HMO-4446
DSS Elder Services	1-866-218-6631
Dept. of Insurance Consumer Affairs	1-800-203-3447

*Senior Services of Stratford/Baldwin Center
1000 West Broad Street
Stratford, CT 06615
(203) 385 - 4055*

*Provided by Representative Terry Backer
800-842-8267*



SENIOR DRIVING INSURANCE DISCOUNT

As of October 1st, drivers ages 60 and up will be eligible for an automobile insurance policy premium

discount after successfully completing a Department of Motor Vehicles approved accident prevention course. This is a great opportunity to stay safe and save money. For more information contact AAA or AARP, the currently approved providers of this course.

CHANGES TO THE PROBATE COURT SYSTEM

Connecticut's Probate Courts have authority over a wide variety of matters. For example, our Probate Courts administer estates, grant adoptions, probate wills, and appoint guardians. A number of changes to the Probate Court System will go into effect on October 1, 2007.



The Probate Court Administrator will be able to transfer and reassign pending cases if court business has not been conducted in a timely manner. Probate Courts will be required to operate a minimum of 20 hours a week. The Probate Administrator, together with the Probate Court Assembly, is given more oversight and enforcement authority over individual Probate Courts, and an appeals process will be in place for a Probate Judge to challenge enforcement actions.