



Supporting Our Veterans, Seniors and Families

This year much of our attention was focused on the current economic situation and its impact on our state budget, however, we did not forget our veterans, seniors and children. We passed a number of bills with full bi-partisan support making things easier and safer for our residents.

I have outlined a few key bills that my colleagues and I passed this year. As always, I look forward to hearing from you, if you have questions or concerns about this year's legislative session, the budget, or any other matter.

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Capitol: 800.842.8267

Useful Numbers

Area Agency on Aging	203.757.5449
ConnPACE	800.423.5026
Consumer Protection	800.842.2649
CT Veterans Affairs	800.550.0000
CT Tax Department	860.297.5962
DSS Elder Services	866.218.6631
Healthcare Advocate	866.466.4446
Infoline	211
Medicare Hotline	800.633.4227
US Veterans' Benefits	800.827.1000
Congressman Chris Murphy	203.759.7541
Waterbury City Hall	203.574.6712

State Capitol, Room 110
Hartford, CT 06106-1591



the House Democrats of Connecticut

www.housedems.ct.gov/Berger

JEFFREY J. BERGER

State Representative

Representing Waterbury | 73rd House District

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State Representative **JEFFREY J. BERGER**

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SUPPORTING OUR TROOPS AND HONORING OUR VETERANS

Property Tax Exemption

Annual proof of disability is no longer required to claim the disabled veterans property tax exemption. Regardless of age or disability rating, any veteran who submits initial proof to the town assessor must only do so again if the VA modifies the rating.

College Tuition Waiver

National Guard members who are part-time students in the Connecticut State University System are now eligible for a tuition waiver. If tuition exceeds the amount of benefits under the new G.I. Bill, the college will waive the remainder.

Gravestones and Flags

In past years, there have been occasional conflicts when the placing of flags at veteran's graves had interfered with the maintenance and mowing of cemeteries. Paying respect to those who sacrificed their lives for our country should not be hindered in any way, so there can be no restrictions on the placement of U.S. flags on veterans' graves from the Saturday before Memorial Day until the Monday after July 4th.

Wartime Service Medals

These medals are awarded to veterans who were called into service as a Connecticut resident. Medals may now be awarded posthumously to veterans who died on or after January 1, 2000.

FOR SENIORS A SAFER & HEALTHIER CT

Combating Financial Crimes Against Seniors

To protect seniors from fraudulent marketing practices, we prohibited financial consultants and life insurance agents from advertising that they are certified to advise seniors unless they have completed a qualified training program or meet state standards for certification.

Expanding Access to Affordable Homecare

New rules expand access to affordable personal care assistance under the Connecticut Homecare Program for Elders. This can provide assistance with daily living activities and help many seniors remain independent in their homes instead of a nursing home.



Locating Missing Seniors

Connecticut now has Silver Alert, which is modeled after the Amber Alert system used for missing children. It will help locate missing seniors and mentally impaired adults by broadcasting an emergency missing persons notice to radio and television stations through the Emergency Alert System, as well as through 2,800 CT Lottery system retailers & electronic billboards.

Protecting Patients at Nursing Homes

We expanded the Nursing Home Bill of Rights to ban the solicitation of gifts or donations as a condition of admission for all patients and extending that protection to 3rd parties, such as families and friends.

FOR OUR CHILDREN A SAFER AND HEALTHIER CT

Banning Products with BPA

Infant formula containers, baby food containers, and all reusable food and beverage containers made with Bisphenol-A (BPA) will be banned in Connecticut beginning in 2010. BPA, a chemical used in plastic products, has been linked to reproductive problems, learning disabilities, and cancer.

Green Cleaning Products in Schools

Our schools will now be required to use green cleaning products instead of potentially hazardous commercial cleaning chemicals. This will not affect the use of disinfectants or sanitizers in schools.

Expanding Coverage for Autism

Group health insurance policies regulated by the state must now cover the diagnosis and treatment of autism spectrum disorders, including behavioral therapy for children through age 14 as well as certain prescription drugs, psychiatric and psychological services.

Protecting Kids in Schools

Connecticut schools will now be allowed to accept gifts, donations, and grants for the purchase of Automatic External Defibrillators. These portable devices offer the best immediate treatment to restore heart rhythm during cardiac arrest. This common sense reform will save lives – at no cost to the taxpayer.

