

IMPORTANT PHONE NUMBERS

- Connecticut Legal Assistance1-800-413-7796
- Consumer Protection.....1-800-842-2649
- Unclaimed Property Hotline.....1-800-833-7318
- CT Tax Department1-860-297-5962
- Veterans' Benefits and Information.....1-800-827-1000
- ConnPACE.....1-800-423-5026
- Medicare Hotline1-800-633-4227
- CT Partnership for Long-Term Care.....1-800-547-3443
- Infoline211
- CT Department of Veterans Affairs.....1-800-550-0000
- CHOICES1-800-944-9422
- Healthcare Advocate1-866-HMO-4446
- DSS Elder Services1-866-218-6631
- Dept. of Insurance Consumer Affairs ...1-800-203-3447
- Area Agency on Aging.....203-333-9288

Provided by Representative Jack Hennessy
1-800-842-8267



Jack Hennessy • Representing Bridgeport



Jack Hennessy
State Representative

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State Representative
Jack Hennessy



Health Care for Seniors



127th District
Serving Bridgeport

New Standards for Hospice Care

If our loved ones are terminally ill, we often rely upon hospice care. Hospice programs are known for high standards of compassion and care. To maintain this reputation, before an organization can use the title of hospice, or describe itself as a hospice care program, it must now be licensed by the Department of Public Health and certified by Medicare. All organizations seeking their initial hospice license must agree to provide hospice care services for terminally ill patients on a 24-hour basis. Services must be provided in private homes, nursing and residential care homes, or other specialized residences which provide supportive services. To maintain appropriate levels of care, an organization must also show the Department of Public Health that it has the qualified personnel to provide the services.

Administration of Flu and Pneumonia Vaccines

To help prevent the spread of flu or pneumonia, we have worked to increase access to vaccinations. Nurses employed by licensed home healthcare or homemaker-home health agencies can now provide these vaccines to patients in their homes without obtaining a physician's order for each shot. Trained nurses have been running flu clinics outside the home for years, and this new law makes it easier for these professionals to keep us healthy.



Connecticut Homecare 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.

Prepaid Medicare Premiums

No one should be penalized for prepaying a Medicare premium. If a person cancels a Medicare Supplement Policy prior to its expiration date, they will now receive a refund on any prepaid premium for coverage that will not be used because of the cancellation.

Nursing Homes

To protect our seniors, we passed a bill that prevents any nursing home, rest home, residential care home, or intermediate care facility for the mentally retarded from closing or greatly decreasing its total bed capacity until a public hearing has been held and the Department of Social Services' Commissioner has approved the facilities request.



Controlling Cancer Treatment Costs

Costs can be prohibitive when a patient can only receive their treatment at a hospital outside the network of their health insurance policy or HMO contract. Now, for certain cancer clinical trials, patients will only need to pay their usual in-network service copayment or deductible required under their health plan.

Duties of Unlicensed Assistive Personnel in Residential Homes

Unlicensed assistive personnel in residential care homes may now perform limited health-related activities for residents. They may obtain and record a resident's blood pressure, temperature, and weight. They may also assist diabetic residents in using glucose monitors for documenting blood glucose levels.

Alzheimer's Programs

Unlicensed and unregistered staff who provide direct care to patients in Alzheimer's special care programs must be given a minimum of one hour of Alzheimer's and dementia specific training every year. The state wide Respite Care program is also now open for people with Alzheimer's disease who receive Medicaid.

