



# TIM LARSON

## State Representative

Serving East Hartford and South Windsor

11<sup>th</sup> House District

### For Seniors, a Safer & Healthier Connecticut

The 2009 legislative session has ended, and I want to share with you some useful information that may be important to you.

These are challenging economic times, but there are services that may assist you, a family member or a friend. I want to make sure that you have the information.

As always, please contact me if you have questions or concerns about this year's legislative session, or any other matter.

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## For Seniors, a Safer & Healthier Connecticut

### HELPING WITH GROCERY BILLS

The Food Stamp program is now called Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and it is easier for seniors to qualify for it. SNAP helps seniors and families afford the cost of food at grocery stores. Income eligibility requirements were recently raised, meaning a household of two can earn up to \$2,248 monthly and qualify for assistance.

[www.ct.gov/SNAP](http://www.ct.gov/SNAP) | 800.742.6906

### ENERGY ASSISTANCE

It is time to start planning for the colder months ahead. Home heating assistance programs have already begun to accept energy applications for the winter. These programs are designed to help qualifying homeowners and renters with their primary heating bills.

*Community Renewal Team (CRT) | 860.560.5800*

### INSURING ACCESS TO DISCOUNT PROGRAMS

To make sure that seniors can take advantage of all discounts offered to them by businesses, stores must now have a prominent sign at the cash register, store entrance or point of display stating their discount policy, including the qualifying age and discount percentage or dollar amount.

### LOCATING MISSING SENIORS

Connecticut now has a Silver Alert, which is modeled after the Amber Alert system for missing children. This 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.

### PREVENTING 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.

### Useful Numbers

INFOLINE	211
Consumer Protection	800.842.2649
CT Tax Department	860.297.5962
Healthcare Advocate	866.466.4446
Unclaimed Property Hotline	800.833.7318
US Veterans' Benefits	800.827.1000
ConnPACE	800.423.5026
CT Veterans Affairs	800.550.0000
DSS Elder Services	866.218.6631
Medicare Hotline	800.633.4227

*For more information on these bills or other issues please contact:*



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