

SUPPORTING SENIORS

Supporting Family Caregivers

Nearly 500,000 Connecticut residents act as caregivers, and many of them feel unprepared to provide the technical care needed to keep their loved ones healthy. That is why I helped to lead passage of the CARE Act, a bipartisan bill that will help to **ensure that caregivers are given follow-up care instructions when a patient is discharged from the hospital** and reduce costly hospital readmissions.

The CARE Act requires hospitals to:

- Provide each patient with the opportunity to designate a caregiver during the patient's admission to the hospital;
- Make reasonable attempts to notify the designated caregiver if the patient is to be discharged back to his or her home; and
- Provide the caregiver with instructions on how to perform medication management, wound care, injections or other medical tasks for the patient when the patient returns home.

Enhanced Protections Against Abuse and Neglect of Seniors

This year, I supported enhanced protections for seniors to guard against abuse and neglect. Senate Bill 1005 gives abused, neglected, exploited or abandoned seniors the ability to sue perpetrators of these crimes. The legislation also enables victims of financial abuse to protect their assets from those who are taking advantage of them and requires that financial institutions train their staff to detect potential fraud, exploitation and financial abuse of seniors.



From your State Senator

Cathy Osten

Legislative Office Building, Room 2100
Hartford, CT 06106-1591
Phone: 860-240-0579
Toll-free: 1-800-842-1420
www.SenatorOsten.cga.ct.gov

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Senator Osten and Oak Hill President & CEO Barry Simon tour a refurbished Camp Hemlocks in Hebron months after Senator Osten helped secure a state matching grant for infrastructure improvements which allowed the camp for individuals with disabilities to reopen.

Legislative Update *from* Cathy Osten

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BUDGET REPORT FOR HEBRON

Car Tax Relief

We provided car tax relief to individuals and businesses in Hebron where the mill rate is 35.75. Our budget caps the mill rate for vehicles at 32 in FY 17 and at 29.36 in FY 18. **This property tax relief benefits not only individuals and families, but also businesses that own trucks or vans.**

ESTIMATED SAVINGS IN HEBRON

Family with a Honda Accord with an assessed value of \$32,000

FY 15 Mill Rate	Current Car Tax	Mill Rate Cap of 32 (FY 17)	Mill Rate Cap of 29.36 (FY 18)	Savings in FY 17	Savings in FY 18
35.75	\$1144	\$1024	\$940	\$120	\$204

A business with three trucks with an assessed value of \$35,000 each

FY 15 Mill Rate	Current Car Tax	Mill Rate Cap of 32 (FY 17)	Mill Rate Cap of 29.36 (FY 18)	Savings in FY 17	Savings in FY 18
35.75	\$3754	\$3360	\$3083	\$394	\$671

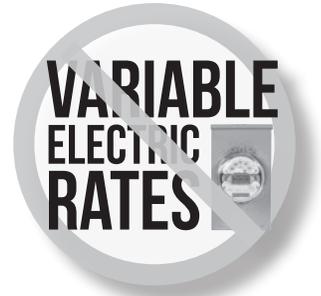
PROTECTING CONSUMERS

Transparency and Fairness for Electricity Pricing

Many consumers have reported that they were enticed into signing a variable-rate contract with a low “teaser” rate, only to see their bills increase significantly without warning. Electric customers deserve stable, predictable rates, whether obtained through standard offer service or from competitive offers in the private supplier marketplace.

Public Act 15-90 will **ban variable-rate residential electric contracts and ensure fixed-rate contracts** provide consumers with stability and security.

To file a consumer complaint, contact PURA: 1-800-382-4586 or www.ct.gov/pura



STANDING UP FOR VETERANS

Tax Cut for Retired Veterans

As part of the state budget, the legislature approved a tax cut for military veterans which **provides a 100 percent exemption from the state income tax for federally taxable military retirement pay**. State law used to provide for only a 50 percent exemption to retired members of the U.S. Army, Navy, Air Force, Marines, Coast Guard, and Army and Air National Guard.



Restored Funding for Honor Guards

The legislature **restored funding in the state budget for Connecticut Honor Guard detachments at veterans' funerals**. Funding was increased by \$400,000 over the governor's proposed budget, ensuring representation of the Honor Guard detachments. This change reflects the state's commitment to honoring the service of our veterans and paying proper respect when they are laid to rest.



SUPPORTING FAMILIES

Helping Children with Dyslexia

The legislature passed a bill designed to help the thousands of Connecticut children struggling with dyslexia. As defined by the bill, dyslexia is a type of “specific learning disability” that impacts reading, specifically spelling, decoding words and fluent word recognition. The bill will help parents and boards of education to detect and assist students with dyslexia, establish teacher preparation programs and provide in-service training programs for teachers that include dyslexia education and training.