



# Action Alert

## Connecticut Association of Area Agencies on Aging, Inc.

### CHOICES Needs Your Help!

**THE ISSUE:** Please call or e-mail members of the Human Services Sub-Committee of Appropriations to urge them to renew the \$1 m. in state funding from the Tobacco and Health Trust Fund for the CHOICES program.

**THE MESSAGE:** CHOICES provides health insurance counseling, information & assistance and connects older adults, those with disabilities, and caregivers to federal benefits for which they are eligible. This service helps people to understand and plan for their long-term care needs. CHOICES does much more than just counsel people on Medicare!

### WHY SHOULD LEGISLATORS SUPPORT CHOICES?

- **It saves money for the State of Connecticut!** If consumers understand how to make more rational long-term care choices, they will:
  - access all available federally-funded benefits including the Medicare D Low-Income Subsidy and the Medicaid Savings Programs (QMB, SLMB, QI)
  - use their own funds more rationally
  - be less likely to need Medicaid-funded care in an institution
- **It's vital to Connecticut's efforts to "re-balance" long-term care spending.** Education of consumers regarding financial planning, the limited scope of public benefits, and available home and community-based options will be a key component of Connecticut's efforts to rationalize and rebalance its long-term care spending.
- **Consumers need streamlined access to information.** The recently released Connecticut Long-Term Care Needs Assessment endorsed creation of a statewide Single-Point of Entry (SPE) or No Wrong Door (NWD) Long-term Care Information and Referral program in Connecticut that would serve individuals across all ages and disabilities.

## Human Services Sub-Committee of the Appropriations Committee:

To e-mail a legislator:

Open: <http://www.cga.ct.gov>

Click on either "House" or "Senate" on left side of screen

Click on "Members"

Scroll to the legislator's name, and click on envelope icon to right of his or her name

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