

REP. KATE HOGAN'S SENIOR NEWS



Home Care in the Commonwealth

Dear Friends,

Here's wishing you a joyous holiday season. As I take time to reflect on blessings this time each year, I continue to be thankful for representing you on Beacon Hill. This December, I would also like to take the opportunity to promote home care and let you know how easily seniors in Massachusetts can access services for themselves, a friend, or a loved one.

Home care is an often invisible, but an essential and cost effective service allowing people in our communities to manage a chronic disease such as diabetes or COPD. Home health services help people recover in their own home following a hospitalization and retain their independence for as long as possible. You may have heard that this year, as a result of revenue shortfalls for Fiscal Year 2017, the

Executive Office of Health and Human Services implemented a waiting list on September 1, 2016 for residents applying for help with meal preparation. I am pleased to tell you that on September 29th the legislature engrossed a spending bill that increased home care funding—putting an end to the waiting list and ensuring that residents in need of meal preparation assistance can receive care.

For people seeking services in their home, the Commonwealth has a web-based directory called MADIL, short for Massachusetts Aging and Disability Information Locator, which is available at massdil.org. The site encompasses the state's elder services organizations that can connect people with Meals on Wheels, transportation to medical appointments, and homemaking services, among other things.

For those needing a higher level of care, MADIL also includes information from the non-profit Home Care Alliance of Massachusetts—including data on close to 200 home care agencies that provide a broad range of services, from skilled nursing or therapy care to aide and companion services. Many of these home care agencies are certified to provide Medicare and Medicaid-reimbursed care when called for, while others offer privately-paid services that can help someone prepare a meal, take a bath or shower, or even get to an important medical appointment. All kinds of information on home care, including information on how to find a job in home care, is available on thinkhomecare.org.

For those eligible for MassHealth, a number of other service options are available—from home health care and adult day health, to personal care attendants and durable medical equipment. More information on that can be accessed by calling MassHealth Customer Service at **1-800-841-2900** (TTY: **1-800-497-4648** for people with partial or total hearing loss). The Executive Office of Elder Affairs can be reached at **617-727-7750** or at **1-800-243-4636**. Their website, mass.gov/elders, is a great resource for information on the home care services provided through their 26 local Aging Services Access Points (ASAPs), eligibility criteria, and payment information. For information on private home care, your Council on Aging has the 2016 guide by the Home Care Alliance of Massachusetts.

I encourage elders and their families who may be struggling not to “go it alone.” Seek out home services and support through these state resources. For any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact my office.

News from Beacon Hill

Governor Baker recently signed into law S.1984, **“Resolve creating a commission to study ways to prevent bullying of tenants in public and subsidized multi-family housing.”** This resolve was initiated by individuals who lived in public housing and were victims of bullying and abuse at the hands of housing managers and other residents. The commission will study the prevalence and impact of tenant bullying in public and subsidized housing, with a focus on elderly and disabled tenants. If you or a loved one is experiencing bullying in public or subsidized housing, or you want further information about this commission, please contact my office for assistance.

Rep. Hogan's Office Hours

There are no office hours in December. However, if you need assistance do not hesitate to contact my office at **(617) 722-2130** or email Kate.Hogan@mahouse.gov.

Kate Hogan

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