

May 2016

[REP. KATE HOGAN'S SENIOR NEWS]



Joint Committee on Public Health

Happy Spring, friends. As we leave winter behind, I am hopeful that May will bring warmer weather and blooming buds. Around this time last year, I shared with you my news of being appointed House Chair of the Joint Committee on Public Health. Over the past year my tenure as Chair has allowed me to work on and promote public health policies and programs that will benefit individuals in Massachusetts. The Committee recently reached "Joint Rule 10" day – a deadline on which we released dozens of important bills from the Joint Committee on Public Health to further their advancement in the Legislature. Many of the bills that we released have the potential to directly impact and assist seniors across the Commonwealth.

Legislation of Interest to Seniors

- H.4067, "An Act relative to home health and hospice aides," would allow home health aides to provide seniors with certain medications that, currently, only a nurse can provide. This change would be more convenient and cost-effective for many seniors, because they would no longer require a separate visit from a nurse to receive certain medications. This bill has been referred to the Committee on Health Care Financing.
- S.1162, "An Act relative to chronic care coordination," would streamline the system of care for individuals with one or more chronic illnesses. A more streamlined system would ensure the patient's needs and preferences are known and communicated at the right time to the right people, and that this information is used to guide the delivery of safe, appropriate, and effective care. This bill has been referred to the Committee on Health Care Financing.
- S.2147, "An Act establishing a commission on malnutrition prevention," is a bill that I co-sponsored. It would establish a commission to study malnutrition, specifically of seniors. This bill has been referred to the Senate Committee on Rules.

Bed Holds Update

Last month I informed you that I would file a budget amendment seeking to extend bed holds in nursing homes. I am pleased to share that MassHealth has recently increased their policy to 20 Medical Leave-of-Absence days and will continue to pay for 10 Non-Medical Leave-of-Absence days, preempting the need for my amendment. I am glad that MassHealth sees the benefit that this change in their policies will provide for seniors in nursing home facilities across the Commonwealth.

Rep. Hogan's Office Hours

- **Stow Office Hours** will be held on Tuesday, May 17th from 6-7 p.m. at the Randall Library, 19 Crescent Street, Stow.
- **Bolton Office Hours** will be held on Thursday, May 26th from 5:30-6:30 p.m. at the Bolton Public Library, 738 Main Street, Bolton.

Please bring any questions, ideas or concerns you may have. If you are unable to attend office hours and have an issue or concern, please call the State House at (617) 722-2130 to schedule an appointment with me.

Proudly represents Bolton, Hudson, Maynard, and Stow

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