

January 2020

REP. KATE HOGAN'S SENIOR NEWS



As December's rush of family and festivities comes to an end, we have the opportunity to ring in a New Year and launch a new decade. It can be a powerful time of year to set goals for the months ahead and envision the impact we want to have on our community. This is especially true for state lawmakers, as we mark the second half of the legislative session and recommit in earnest to the big work ahead of us. In this spirit, I am excited to share with you some of my New Year's resolutions for Maynard seniors.

Resolution #1: Safeguarding access to health care savings for low-income seniors

The ability to set aside money in a pooled trust gives our seniors of modest means what high-income residents might take for granted: access to protected savings they can draw from to pay for the many uncovered costs associated with aging. Proposed shifts to MassHealth regulations, however, put the use of pooled trusts at risk. This session, I have refiled legislation that will codify – or secure in law – the preservation of pooled trusts for disabled seniors. What we know for sure is that low-income seniors with pooled trusts are far more likely to age in place and maintain a higher quality of life.

Resolution #2: Building senior-inclusive transportation solutions

I am proud to work with a host of local, regional, and state partners to advance innovative transit solutions that bridge gaps in access for seniors in our community – establishing senior-inclusive fixed bus routes and first and last mile connections. This fiscal year, I secured funding towards continuing the popular South Acton Commuter Shuttle service and piloting a stop in Stow. Run by the towns of Maynard and Acton, in collaboration with the Transportation Management Association (TMA) CrossTown Connect, the shuttle has steadily become an important piece in our region's unique transportation puzzle, picking up residents throughout downtown Maynard and dropping them off at the commuter rail. As lawmakers debate significant transportation legislation in the coming months, I will continue to hit the ground running in partnership with our towns, TMAs, and Regional Transportation Authorities towards increased access to transit for our seniors – and to share our local success stories at the state level.

Resolution #3: Connecting seniors to dental care

Due to a host of factors like geography and income, thousands of Commonwealth residents are unable to access regular dental care. Our seniors, who can be doubly challenged by lack of mobility, are particularly affected by this public health issue. One of the solutions I have been advancing at the State House is authorizing a new, mid-level dental provider, called dental therapists. Dental therapists will have the community-oriented training and flexibility to provide dental care in unconventional settings, like nursing homes. The bill, An Act to improve oral health for all Massachusetts residents, was advanced with bipartisan support out of the Joint Committee on Public Health earlier this year – a significant step towards getting it over the finish line and signed into law.

Share your goals for the year ahead by sending me an email or calling my office; I always love hearing about how state programming can better support our seniors in living happy, healthy, and connected lives.

Rep. Hogan's Office Hours

- **Bolton Office Hours** will be held on Thursday, January 16th from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Bolton Public Library, 738 Main Street, Bolton

If you are unable to attend office hours, please call the State House at (617) 722-2199 to schedule an appointment. In addition to Rep. Hogan's office hours, staff is available at the District Office on Thursdays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m.

Kate Hogan

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Kate Hogan, State Representative

Proudly represents Bolton, Hudson, Maynard, and Stow

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