



**U.S. CONGRESSMAN JOHN LARSON**  
*Connecticut's 1st District*

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OFFICIAL BUSINESS

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PROOF

Seniors: You Deserve the Facts



OFFICIAL CONGRESSIONAL LETTERHEAD

**A Letter from Congressman Larson**

Every day hundreds of thousands of Connecticut seniors rely on the earned benefits of Medicare and Social Security. These programs offer seniors the security they deserve as they enter the golden years of their lives.

But there are those in Washington who want to end those programs as we know them by privatizing Social Security and converting Medicare to a private voucher program.

Too many have forgotten what life was like for seniors before these critical programs, when nearly half the seniors in the nation lived in poverty and millions couldn't afford healthcare or retirement. We can't afford to fall back to those days.

As your Congressman, I am committed to opposing cuts to Medicare or Social Security benefits and I will always stand up for our seniors.

My office is always ready to help. If you have any questions or concerns on Social Security, Medicare, veteran-related issues, or anything else, please give us a call or stop by to see us. In the last two years alone we helped with 128 veterans claims and 253 Medicare and Social Security claims and we're happy to help you too.

All the Best,  
*John B. Larson*  
John B. Larson  
Member of Congress

**CONTACT ME**

*Please do not hesitate to contact my office, we are here to help!*

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# The Facts **CONFIRMED**

This year, the monthly Medicare Part B premium for most beneficiaries is \$99.90 and the annual deductible is \$140. The deductible is \$22 lower than last year and the premium is less than anticipated.

After two years with no Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA), Social Security beneficiaries will be getting a COLA of about \$43 a month to help cover higher prices.

Thanks to the Affordable Care Act, seniors across Connecticut are seeing their healthcare benefits improve:

**Out of pocket Rx drug costs are going down.** By closing the Medicare Part D 'donut hole', the law has saved Medicare beneficiaries in CT alone almost \$45 million in prescription drug costs.

**Seniors are staying healthier.** By providing preventative services – like mammograms and cancer screenings – at no cost to Medicare beneficiaries, the law encourages seniors to catch potentially dangerous illnesses early, when they are easier, and cheaper, to treat. More than 400,000 Connecticut beneficiaries took advantage of those services last year.

*Earlene D. of Hartford was prescribed intravenous medication from her doctor, but Medicare refused to cover the cost of her medicine. We worked with her doctor and Medicare and now her treatments are covered again.*



Congressman Larson meets with constituents at the Newington Senior Center.

# Myths **BUSTED**

**Myth #1:** The health reform law cut \$500 billion from Medicare benefits.

**Reality:** This is false. The health reform law reduced overpayments to private Medicare plans, cut waste, fraud, and abuse, and reformed payments to providers. No Medicare benefits were cut.

**Myth #2:** In 2014, Medicare premiums will increase to \$247 because of the health care law.

**Reality:** This is false. Several non-partisan fact-checking groups have debunked this claim. The Medicare Actuary recently estimated that the premium in 2014 will be \$112.



Congressman Larson discusses legislation at East Windsor Senior Center.

**Myth #3:** The health care law contains a 3.8% tax on all real estate transactions.

**Reality:** This is false. A tax on real estate transactions would only apply to high income individuals and families who make a very large profit on their home sale. For example, a family would have to make over \$250,000 a year and make a profit of over \$500,000 on the sale for the tax to apply. Even then, the tax would only be on the profit above \$500,000.

**The fact is that the health reform law will help millions of American seniors. It will enhance Medicare benefits and extend its solvency. That is why groups like AARP, the American Cancer Society, and the Center for Medicare Advocacy all support the Affordable Care Act.**

*Marijo B. of Bristol was having problems getting Medicare to cover a procedure. She had tried to work through the Medicare red-tape several times with no success. We were able to work with her, her doctor and Medicare to ensure she did not have to pay thousands of dollars out of pocket.*

# Need Help?

## Obtaining veterans benefits and past medals

My staff is trained to help you navigate the Department of Veterans Affairs and help you obtain any earned benefits that you or your spouse may need. Additionally, my office has helped numerous veterans track down and receive past service medals they have earned.

## Identifying Social Security and Medicare fraud and waste

Have you ever received a suspicious letter asking you for your Social Security number? Unfortunately there are illegitimate groups and individuals who actively try to scam senior citizens. Please be alert to potential fraud and waste. If something does not seem right, please contact my office immediately and we can help.

## Replacing important documents

Whether it is helping renew an expired passport or replacing a lost one, my office can be of assistance. We also are able to track down lost naturalization papers and other immigration documents.

*William G. of Middletown needed help getting a loan modification from his bank when his wife passed away. He is retired and on a fixed income. We were able to help him talk to his bank and he now has a loan he can afford.*

## HELPFUL NUMBERS

### Social Security Administration Offices

East Hartford: 1-866-706-6759

Hartford: 1-877-619-2851

Middletown: 1-877-746-9817

New Britain: 1-866-931-7102

Torrington: 1-877-405-0486

### Center for Medicare Advocacy

(860) 456-7790

### CT Dept. Veterans Affairs

(860) 616-3600

### U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs Hartford Regional Office

1-800-827-1000

### U.S. Dept. of Veterans Affairs CT Healthcare System - Newington

(860) 666-6951