

Archibald, Kristen

From: CT Assoc for Home Care & Hospice [annunziata@cahch.org]
Sent: Thursday, September 10, 2009 11:49 AM
To: Archibald, Kristen
Subject: Legislative Update - August 20

August 24, 2009

Legislative Update

The Connecticut Association for Home Care & Hospice

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Dear Kristen,

[Connecticut Association for Home Care & Hospice](#) (CAHCH) has been keeping abreast of continuing budget negotiations at the state capitol. As the summer comes to a close, state legislators and Governor Jodi M. Rell remain in an increasingly bitter stalemate as they cannot agree upon taxes and spending cuts. For more details on the negotiation efforts, see below.

Please let us know if you have any suggestions regarding the update. Suggestion or questions can be emailed to Kristin LaCosse at lacosse@cahch.org.

Budget Stalemate Continues

As Labor Day looms closer, Democrats and Governor M. Jodi Rell continue to disagree on a budget for the 2009 to 2011 biennium. Although Connecticut is one of just two states running without budget, a compromise does not seem imminent.

On August 21st, Governor Rell indicated that she is prepared for a lengthy budget battle. Rell continues to demand cuts to the budget, while Democrats are focused on generating revenue through taxes. Speaker of the House Chris Donovan explained that although Democrats have made cuts in certain areas, Governor Rell does not agree with them. Although Rell is strongly opposed to tax increases, Donovan asserted that a tax on families with incomes higher than \$600,000 would allow for continued funding to social services, health care and education. In his press conference on Friday, Donovan specifically cited closing intake for the state-funded portion of the CT Home Care Program for Elders as an example of a cut that he "will not accept."

On August 22, Connecticut broke its previous record for the longest period without a budget. This landmark was reached a mere five days before the August 27th special session to address resolution of last fiscal year's deficit. It is expected that the 2008-'09 deficit of close to \$1 billion will be bonded by lawmakers as Democrats, Republicans and the Governor aim to preserve the rainy day fund to offset the need for even further spending cuts in the current budget discussions. Bonding the deficit during this one daysession will ensure that reserve funds are not utilized to pay off the previous year's deficit, instead allowing those funds to be applied to the current deficit.

Two Step Advocacy Plan

CAHCH is asking its members to make a brief contact (by email or phone) with their legislators prior to Thursday, August 27th to reiterate our core messages; home care is consumer-preferred and saved the taxpayer over \$91 million in 2007 by preventing or delaying admission to nursing homes. Our Medicare funding may be significantly cut under the health reform proposal currently under consideration in Washington. The State of Connecticut must step up to the plate to prevent a disaster for our elderly and disabled citizens, as well as taxpayers.

In the increasingly likely event that a budget deal is not reached by Labor Day, CAHCH will ask you to make a second, more involved contact with legislators. We will provide you with more details next week. In the meantime, please let us know if you have contacted any legislators and what, if any, response you received.

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