



*An independent, nonpartisan office of the Connecticut General Assembly*

## **News Conference Advisory**

### **Connecticut's Commitment to Preventing Falls: A Critical Strategic Investment**

**Date: Tuesday, September 22, 2009: "National Falls Prevention Awareness Day"**

**Time: 10:30 a.m.**

**Location: Room 1A, Legislative Office Building, Hartford**

**Subject:** The Commission on Aging, in conjunction with the Connecticut Collaboration for Fall Prevention based at Yale University, will explain how investing in evidenced-based programs has been shown to reduce the human suffering that results from fall-related injuries among older adults and produces millions of dollars in net savings to the state and federal government.

**Background:** In the recently adopted state budget, the General Assembly authorized \$1 million to fund fall prevention programs over the next two fiscal years. Preventing injuries from falls is a key component in the movement to help people age in their homes and communities.

**Speakers:**

Dorothy Baker, Ph.D., RN, Research Scientist, Yale University School of Medicine  
Brian Fillipo, MD, Vice President, Quality and Patient Safety, CT Hospital Association  
Julia Evans Starr, Executive Director, Connecticut Commission on Aging  
State Senator Jonathan A. Harris (D-5<sup>th</sup>, West Hartford)  
State Senator Mary Ann Handley (D-4<sup>th</sup>, Manchester)  
Other invited guests

**Dr. Baker:**

"We estimate that Medicaid in Connecticut currently spends \$119 million a year to provide long-term care services to older adults who have lost the ability to function due to fall-related injuries." (Note: The state's Medicaid budget for long-term care is about \$2 billion.)

**Connecticut Department of Public Health:**

"More than any other preventable injury, falls cause older adults to be placed in nursing homes, lead to hospitalization and possibly death. They cost the state millions of dollars." (CT Dept. of Public Health)

Contact:

Rob Norton

Connecticut Commission on Aging

(860) 240-5202; [Robert.norton@cga.ct.gov](mailto:Robert.norton@cga.ct.gov)

*State Capitol • 210 Capitol Avenue • Hartford, CT 06106*

*Phone: 860.240.5200 • Email: [coa@cga.ct.gov](mailto:coa@cga.ct.gov)*

*LTC website: [www.ct.gov/longtermcare](http://www.ct.gov/longtermcare)*

*CoA Website: [www.cga.ct.gov/coa](http://www.cga.ct.gov/coa)*

