



Dear Friend:

Pennsylvania is home to one of the nation's largest senior citizen populations, and we are fortunate to benefit from the wisdom and experience of our older residents. The General Assembly has taken a number of steps to help protect our seniors during the 2009-10 legislative session. I have included information on several of these measures in this legislative update. As always, please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns you might have. Your input is always welcomed and appreciated.

Sincerely,

Senator Richard Alloway II

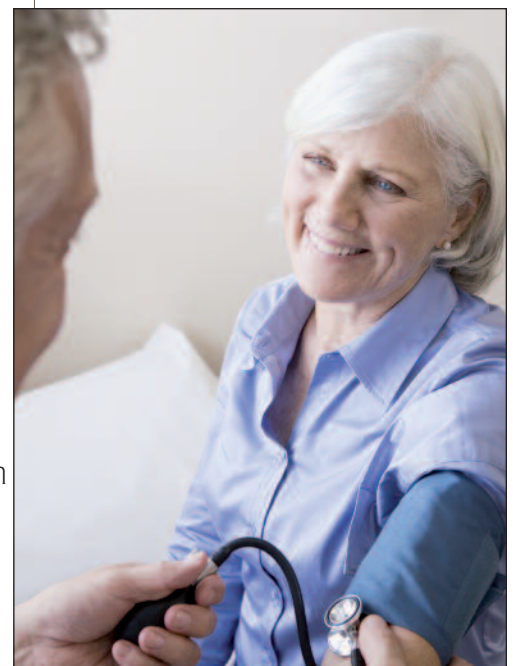
Senate Approves Plan to Expand Community-Based Health Care Clinics

During the 2009-10 legislative session, the Senate passed legislation that would help develop and expand Community-Based Health Care Clinics that provide vital health care services for the uninsured.

Senate Bill 5 would create the Community-Based Health Care Program within the Department of Health to provide grants to develop and expand community health care clinics. The clinics would improve access to health care services for low-income individuals and elderly or disabled individuals with limited means of transportation.

The community health care clinics would offer services such as preventive care, pharmacy services, dental treatment, behavioral health and other vital services that can help seniors and low-income adults avoid costly hospital emergency

visits and avoidable hospital admissions. The clinics would emphasize cooperation between the patient, physician, nurses, and clinic staff and provide high-quality and cost-effective health care regardless of patients' insurance status or ability to pay.



Alloway Cosponsors Law to Help Locate Missing Seniors

I was pleased to cosponsor legislation that was recently signed into law to help locate missing vulnerable Pennsylvanians quickly.

Act 126 of 2010 creates the Missing Endangered Person Advisory System to locate a missing person who has a physical or mental condition that puts them at greater risk than the average individual. The legislation makes components of the Amber Alert system available

to local police departments upon request to the State Police.

Amber Alerts play a vital role in locating missing children who are in danger, and I am hopeful that making this system and technology available to law enforcement agencies for other vulnerable Pennsylvanians will help prevent needless tragedies.



New Department of Banking Policy Protects Older Homeowners

The Pennsylvania Departments of Banking and Aging recently announced a new policy of conduct for lenders who provide reverse mortgages for seniors.

Under the new state policy, homeowners age 62 and older who choose to acquire a reverse mortgage will deal with lenders who understand the complexity of reverse mortgages, adhere to

a code of conduct and have the ability to support the loan.

A reverse mortgage allows older homeowners to receive monthly payments by using their home as collateral for the loan. The loan must be repaid when the homeowner sells the home, moves out or passes away. While reverse mortgages are not appropriate for seniors in many situations, they can help some

seniors who experience financial difficulties but would still like to keep their homes. It is important for seniors to discuss their options with an unbiased counselor from a state or federal agency with expertise in reverse mortgage issues, such as the Pennsylvania Housing Finance Agency or the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

Senator Alloway's Legislative Offices

37 South Main Street, Suite 200, Chambersburg, PA 17201 • Phone: 717-264-6100 • Fax: 717-264-3652

53 East Middle Street, Gettysburg, PA 17325 • Phone: 717-334-4169 • Fax: 717-334-5911

237 East Main Street, Waynesboro, PA 17268 • Phone: 717-762-9222 • Fax: 717-749-5649

Senate Box 203033, Harrisburg, PA 17120-3033 • Phone: 717-787-4651 • Fax: 717-772-2753
TTY: 800-364-1581

senatoralloway.com • alloway@pasen.gov