

The Connecticut General Assembly



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Rep. Cook Votes to Restore Medicare Savings Program *Program helps seniors, disabled with health care costs*

State Rep. Michelle Cook (D-Torrington) voted Monday to restore funding to the state's Medicare Savings Program (MSP), which helps seniors and disabled individuals afford their health care costs.

Under a bipartisan plan, \$54 million in funding was restored to the program. More than 113,000 seniors and disabled individuals depend on MSP to pay for their Medicare Part B premiums, deductibles, and co-insurance.

"The Medicare Savings Program is a vital resource for many seniors and disabled individuals in Torrington. Cutting this program would have created an unacceptable hardship for many of our neighbors," **Rep. Cook** said. "Many Torrington residents reached out to me about this issue, and I shared their concerns with legislative leadership. This was an unfortunate oversight in a challenging budget year, but restoring this program and giving residents peace of mind was a priority."

The budget adopted in October reduced income eligibility for the program, which would have eliminated or reduced coverage for many participants. Monday's vote restores the program to previous levels.

MSP Income Eligibility Levels

<i>MSP Program Tier</i>	<i>Cost-Sharing Payments Covered</i>	<i>Income Limit (% FPL)</i>	<i>Annual Income Limit (Individual)</i>
Qualified Medicare Beneficiary Program (QMB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Medicare Part B Premium• All Medicare deductibles	Less than 211%	\$25,447

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Co-insurance 		
Specified Low-Income Medicare Beneficiary Program (SLMB)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medicare Part B Premium 	211%-231%	\$27,859
Qualified Individual (QI)	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medicare Part B Premium 	231%-246%	\$29,668

Source: Nonpartisan Office of Legislative Research

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