

**WASHINGTON, DC** – According to new data from the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS), in the first six months of 2012, eastern Connecticut seniors saved \$3,005,849 on prescription drugs because of the Affordable Care Act. The number of beneficiaries receiving assistance as well as the total amount of assistance will continue to grow throughout the year as more eastern Connecticut seniors hit the donut hole.

Beginning in 2011, Medicare improvements in the Affordable Care Act meant that beneficiaries automatically received a 50-percent discount on covered brand-name drugs in the Part D coverage gap, or donut hole. Beginning this year, Part D has also started covering 14 percent of generic drug costs for those in the donut hole. The amount of this discount will continue to grow until the Part D donut hole is completely phased out in 2020.

“Seniors across eastern Connecticut are receiving significant assistance covering the cost of prescription drugs thanks to the Affordable Care Act,” **said Congressman Courtney.** “Throughout the year, as more seniors hit the donut hole, the number of beneficiaries and the total amount of assistance will continue to increase. In the wake of the Supreme Court’s ruling upholding the Affordable Care Act, seniors can now rest assured that this assistance is permanent, and will continue to grow until the donut hole is closed entirely in 2020.”

CMS data shows that 3,956 eastern Connecticut beneficiaries received assistance between January 1 and June 30. The average savings per senior so far this year is \$759. According to their statistics, the towns with the most beneficiaries are:

## **TOWN**

## **BENEFICIARIES**

Enfield

244

Norwich

223

Vernon

186

Glastonbury

159

Waterford

137

East Lyme

129

Mansfield

129

Jewett City

120

Madison

100

Montville

98

Ellington

94

Groton

93

Mystic

91

Statewide, 16,042 beneficiaries received assistance totaling \$11.6 million. Last year, eastern Connecticut seniors saved more than \$5 million on prescription drugs thanks to the Affordable Care Act's measures to close the donut hole. CMS data shows that approximately 7,720 eastern Connecticut beneficiaries received prescription drug assistance in 2011. According to their statistics, the eastern Connecticut towns with the most beneficiaries receiving assistance were:

**TOWN**

**BENEFICIARIES**

Enfield

530

Vernon

369

Norwich

285

Madison

278

East Lyme

258

Mystic

245

Groton

230

Waterford

210

Clinton

177

Ellington

172

Old Saybrook

171

New London

170

Colchester

163

Old Lyme

161

Somers

144

Suffield

143

Jewett City

138

Coventry

113

Essex

112

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