



Older Americans Act Makes Headway

Wasting no time in the 114th U.S. Congress, a bipartisan group of Senators introduced S. 192 to reauthorize the Older Americans Act from 2015 - 2018. S. 192 was quickly approved by the Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pension (HELP) by a unanimous vote.

As our friends at AARP point out, “This carefully crafted legislation reflects over three years of bipartisan work reflected in a balanced, pragmatic approach to helping older Americans live longer with independence and dignity in their homes and communities.”

In addition to support for social and nutrition needs of older adults and their caregivers, this reauthorization also “includes provisions to protect vulnerable elders by strengthening the Long-Term Care Ombudsman program and existing elder abuse screening and prevention efforts. The bill also promotes the delivery of evidence-based programs, such as falls prevention and chronic disease self-management programs. The reauthorization also streamlines federal level administration of programs, promotes the efficient and effective use of transportation services, and improves coordination between programs at the federal, state and local levels.”

Advocates have been concerned about a controversial piece of the proposed reauthorization which eliminates a hold-harmless provision. This provision mitigated a loss of funds allocated by the OAA population based formula for states like Michigan where the aging population is growing, but not as fast as in other states. Under the reauthorization, Michigan would stand to lose a cumulative \$123,147 between 2015 and 2018 as summarized by the table below.

	Michigan OAA Allocation	Loss to Michigan from previous year	Percent loss from prior year	Region 1-B share of loss
FY2015	\$32,067,517			
FY2016	\$32,031,104	\$36,413	0.114%	\$ 9,831.51
FY2017	\$31,992,559	\$38,545	0.120%	\$10,407.15
FY2018	\$31,944,370	\$48,189	0.151%	\$13,011.03
Cumulative Loss		\$123,147	0.386%	\$33,249.69

Given that losses are minimal to Michigan, we support the reauthorization of the OAA recognizing all of the other benefits provided by a reauthorization. A full summary of the OAA reauthorization can be found by clicking [here](#).

You can help this legislation progress by contacting your U.S. Senators to ask for their support of the long overdue reauthorization.

Contact: Senator Debbie Stabenow (D) Phone: 313-961-4330 and Senator Gary Peters (D) Phone: (202) 2240-6221

Elder Abuse Legislation Re-Introduced (SB 49/50)

Late in the 2014 legislative session two bills, (SB 866/867) designed to discourage elder or vulnerable adult abuse by further defining, increasing penalties and imposing strict sentencing guidelines failed to make it out of committee. Senator Virgil Smith (D-Detroit) has reintroduced this legislation in the 2015-2016 session. SB 49 and 50 amend both the MI Code of Criminal Procedure and the Michigan Penal Code by adding the guidelines on the following page which are applicable to both vulnerable and elder adults.

Elder Abuse Legislation Re-Introduced (SB 49/50)

Violation	Level	Max. Prison and/or Fine
Assault	Misdemeanor	1 year; \$1,000
Assault causing physical injury, pain, or mental suffering	Felony	4 years; \$5,000
Assault causing serious impairment of body function	Felony	15 years; \$10,000
Assault causing death	Felony	25 years; \$25,000

Value/Prior Convictions	Level	Max. Prison and/or Fine*
<\$200	Misdemeanor	93 days; \$500
\$200 or more but <\$1,000 or at least 1 prior conviction	Misdemeanor	1 year; \$2,000
\$1,000 or more but <\$20,000 or at least 1 prior conviction**	Felony	5 years; \$10,000
\$20,000 or more but <\$50,000 or at least 2 prior conviction**	Felony	10 years; \$15,000
\$50,000 or more but <\$100,000 or at least 2 prior conviction**	Felony	15 years; \$15,000
\$100,000 or more, or at least 2 prior conviction**	Felony	20 years; \$50,000
*Or 3 times the value of the money or property, whichever is more.		
**Except for a conviction involving money or property valued at less than \$200		

SB 49 and SB 50 have been referred to the Senate Judiciary Committee chaired by Senator Rick Jones (R-Grand Ledge). The AAA 1-B legislators Senator Tory Rocca (R- Sterling Heights, 10th District) and Senator Steven Bieda (D-Warren, 9th District) also sit on the Judiciary Committee. You can help this legislation move forward by contacting Senator Jones to request that these bills receive a hearing. Additionally, if you live in either the 9th or 10th Michigan senate district, consider reaching out to Senator Rocca or Senator Bieda to request their support for the advancement of this legislation.

Senator Rick Jones: 517-373-3447 senrjones@senate.michigan.gov

Senator Tory Rocca: 517-373-7315 sentrocca@senate.michigan.gov

Senator Steven Bieda: 517-373-8360, sensbieda@senate.michigan.gov

Alzheimer's Association Income Tax Check Off

Every 68 seconds someone is newly diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease. You can help combat this disease by supporting the work of the Alzheimer's Association. Consider making a donation from your 2014 Michigan income tax return. Michigan taxpayers can donate \$5, \$10 or more from their Michigan return to the Alzheimer's Association Fund which supports programs and services across the state. Programs include a 24/7 helpline, education programs and support groups for family members and caregivers. Your contribution makes a difference and together we can achieve the Alzheimer's Association's vision of a world without Alzheimer's.

Questions can be directed to micheckoff@alz.org or 1-800-272-3900.



The Area Agency on Aging 1-B (AAA 1-B) is a nonprofit agency serving the needs of older adults in Livingston, Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair, and Washtenaw counties.

Contact Ryan Cowmeadow, (248) 262-1282 or by e-mail at rcowmeadow@aaa1b.com to join the Senior Advocacy Network or receive copies of AAA 1-B reports referenced in The Advocate.