



State Lawmakers Work to Finalize FY 2017 Budget: Urge Your Legislators to Support Silver Key Coalition Request

All eyes are on Lansing this month, as state legislators meet to finalize the state's budget for Fiscal Year (FY) 2017. On May 17th the state held its annual Revenue Estimating Conference, where it was projected that the state will have approximately \$170 million less General Revenue Funds available for the upcoming year than was previously projected.

Following the Revenue Estimating Conference, House and Senate Health and Human Service (HHS) Appropriations subcommittee members will meet in a conference committee to reconcile their budget proposals. This Conference Committee will be responsible for making a decision regarding the Silver Key Coalition's request for \$5 million to serve the 7,000 seniors on waiting lists for AASA in-home services throughout the state. The Senate's current budget proposal includes the Coalition's request for the \$5 million increase, while the House budget includes an \$836,000 increase.

The House HHS Conference Committee Appointees who will be responsible for making funding decisions for senior programs are: Representative VerHeulen- District 74 (Walker), Representative Poleski- District 64 (Jackson), and Representative Santana- District 9 (Detroit). The Senate HHS Conference Committee members were named on May 24th, and the following Senators will serve on the committee: Senator Marleau- District 12 (Oakland County), Senator MacGregor- District 28 (Kent County), and Senator Hertel- District 23 (Ingham County).

The budget is expected to be completed during the first week of June, so now is the time to speak with your legislators about the FY 2017 budget. If you live in the district of one of the Conference Committee members, please contact and urge them to make seniors a priority in the FY 2017 budget by supporting the Silver Key Coalition's \$5 million budget request to serve the 7,000 seniors on waiting lists for in-home services.

9th Annual Older Michiganians Day held in Lansing

On May 11th over 1,000 seniors from across the state gathered on the Capitol Lawn for the 9th annual Older Michiganians Day. At this event, older adults were able to meet with their legislators to discuss issues facing older adults, including the FY 2017 budget.

Pictured Right: Representative Greimel meets with advocates from Pontiac's Golden Opportunities Club.

