

## Older Michiganians Day Steering Committee

Area Agencies on Aging Association of Michigan

AARP Michigan

Alzheimer's Association

Michigan Association of Nutrition & Aging Services Programs

Michigan Directors of Services to the Aging

Michigan Senior Advocates Council

National Multiple Sclerosis Society, Michigan

Senior Volunteer Programs of Michigan

### What Can Advocates Do?

- ▶ Understand the issues facing older adults and individuals living with disabilities.
- ▶ Study Legislators' stands on related issues.
- ▶ Meet with your Legislators.



### What Can Legislators Do?

- ▶ Attend Older Michiganians Day and meet with your constituents who traveled to the rally.
- ▶ Sponsor and support legislation that promotes this platform.
- ▶ Commit to government transparency and open dialogue in the legislative process.



## OLDER MICHIGANIANS DAY

Presented by Area Agencies on Aging  
and Aging Network Partners

May 17, 2017

### PLATFORM for Legislative Action!

- ▶ Continue Progress to Make Michigan a No-Wait State
- ▶ Protect Medicaid
- ▶ Legislative Attention to Direct Care Worker Crisis
- ▶ Rebalance Michigan's Long Term Care Spending
- ▶ Prevent and Respond to Elder Abuse
- ▶ Increase Dementia Care and Support
- ▶ Approve Home Accessibility Tax Credit
- ▶ Improve Transportation Programs

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[www.oldermichiganiansday.com](http://www.oldermichiganiansday.com)

Twitter: @Older\_MI\_Day

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## Continue Progress to Make Michigan a No-Wait State

Improve access to the MI CHOICE Medicaid Waiver program to help more older adults receive home and community-based services, instead of going to nursing homes.

**MI Choice waiver (home-based services) = \$78 per day**  
**Nursing Home costs = \$187 per day**  
(2016 average)

Increase funding for the Aging and Adult Services Agency (AASA) by \$3.6 million for fiscal year 2018, as recommended by Governor Rick Snyder, to reduce the wait lists for home and community-based services delivered through Area Agencies on Aging.

**The Silver Key Coalition estimates that some 7,000 older adults are waiting for essential in-home services.**

## Protect Medicaid

Oppose any federal proposal for changing Medicaid that would have the net effect of cutting services for low-income residents.

## Legislative Attention to Direct Care Worker Crisis

Form a legislative committee to immediately act on addressing the shortage of direct-care workers in long term care. Difficulty in recruitment and retention of qualified staff is exacerbated by insufficient training and lack of a living wage.

**The need for direct care workers is expected to grow by 32% - more than 30,000 workers - over the next 10 years.**

## Rebalance Michigan's Long Term Care Spending

Reduce reliance on high cost settings and honor choice by supporting more flexible funding. Create a unified long term care line-item in the budget to allow money to follow the person.

## Prevent and Respond to Elder Abuse

Support the Governor's budget recommendation to add 95 adult protective services workers to address elder abuse, neglect and financial exploitation.

**Reports of suspected elder abuse have doubled since 2011 to over 40,000 cases per year.**

## Increase Dementia Care and Support

Support the Alzheimer's Association's \$2 million funding request for the Michigan Dementia Care and Support Program in fiscal year 2018. This program serves families affected by dementia and saves taxpayers millions of dollars.

**Today, someone in the U.S. develops Alzheimer's disease every 66 seconds. By 2050, someone in the U.S. will develop Alzheimer's every 33 seconds.**

## Approve Home Accessibility Tax Credit

Provide support for home modifications to improve safety and accessibility through a tax credit.

## Transportation

Increase availability of accessible public transportation through protection of the Public Act 51 funding formula; coordination of non-emergency medical transportation; and allowing on-demand transit service across county borders.