

LEGISLATIVE ACTION FOR SENIORS

Repealing the Retirement Tax, Lowering Costs for Seniors

Last year, Gov. Gretchen Whitmer and the Michigan Senate Democrats were instrumental in passing the Lowering MI Costs Plan, one of the biggest tax relief initiatives Michigan has seen in decades. This plan overhauls the unfair and unpopular retirement tax, expands the Working Families Tax Credit and makes significant investments in housing and community development.

By expanding the Working Families Tax Credit to 30% of the federal Earned Income Tax Credit, 700,000 Michiganders — those who have the hardest time affording the basics — will see an average of \$3,150 back in their pockets. Phasing out the unfair and unpopular retirement tax over four years will ultimately put an average of \$1,000 back in the pockets of 500,000 households. The Lowering MI Costs Plan also invests \$50 million of surplus tax revenue in the state's Housing and Community Development Fund — which prioritizes projects offering veterans, seniors, people with disabilities and working families safe, affordable places to call home. Learn more at Michigan.gov/taxes.

Lowering Prescription Drug Costs

Last year, the State Senate passed Senate Bills 483-485 to establish an independent Prescription Drug Affordability Board (PDAB) in Michigan. The PDAB aims to address the issue of implementing measures to regulate prescription drug costs, ensuring that essential medications are accessible and affordable for everyone.

In 2020, while the costs of many goods were rising, the prices of 500 prescription drugs in Michigan increased at a rate twice that of inflation. Michigan Senate Democrats are committed to alleviating the burden of prescription drug costs on Michigan residents and employers — and we are taking meaningful action to combat this persistent problem.

The Prescription Drug Affordability Board (PDAB) would:

- **Have the authority** to review prescription drug costs and evaluate their impact on Michiganders.
- **Be empowered** to establish upper payment limits and prevent skyrocketing costs.
- **Enable more access** to the medications Michiganders need to survive and thrive.
- **Bring accountability**, oversight, and transparency to the prescription drug industry.
- **Be made up of unbiased experts** with safeguards to prevent external influence.

This bill package has been referred to the House Committee on Insurance and Financial Services to await further action.

Budget Funding for Seniors

In addition to the exciting legislative wins passed last year, the Michigan Legislature made significant investments in our senior community through the Fiscal Year 2024 budget.

Some of those investments include:

- **\$28.0 million** in federal Coronavirus State Fiscal Recovery Fund/American Rescue Plan (ARP) revenue to construct, renovate, or relocate four senior, community, or multigenerational centers
- **\$1.2 million** in federal ARP funds to create an electronic implementation solution for Senior Project Fresh, which aims to enhance nutrition education and develop alternatives for communities without internet accessibility
- **\$568,100** of federal ARP funds to enhance and improve the ability of the adult protective services system to investigate allegations of abuse, neglect, and exploitation of seniors
- **\$1 million** to provide home-delivered meal programs (Meals on Wheels) through the Area Agencies on Aging
- **\$1.7 million** to increase Medicaid fee-for-service reimbursement rates by 10% for home-based skilled nursing care, physical therapy, and nurse's aide services

SAVE THE DATE FOR OUR SENIOR SUMMITS

our annual resource fairs

MONDAY • SEPTEMBER 9 • 1-3 PM
Southfield Pavilion • 26000 Evergreen Road in Southfield

FRIDAY • SEPTEMBER 13 • 1-3 PM
Welcome Missionary Baptist Church • 143 Oneida St. in Pontiac

HOSTED BY: **STATE SENATOR JEREMY MOSS**
SPECIAL GUEST: **ATTORNEY GENERAL DANA NESSEL**

I HOPE TO SEE YOU AT ONE OF THE EVENTS!

RSVP not required, but appreciated by emailing my office at SenJMoss@senate.michigan.gov, calling toll-free at **(855) 347-8007** or scanning the QR Code with your phone.

RSVP TODAY!



SCAN TO RSVP!



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JM0224

Prepared by the Michigan Legislature.

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Dear Friend,

Michigan seniors have contributed to the vitality of this state in invaluable ways. As your State Senator, it is my honor to serve and advocate for you at the Capitol.

For decades, hard working Michiganders raised families in our neighborhoods, grew businesses in our communities, and shared their talent with our workforce. As the very lifeblood of our state, seniors deserve our utmost care and respect in their retirement. We are working to fulfill that promise in the Michigan Senate.

This newsletter will provide the seniors in our district information and resources you might need, and to learn about important legislation we have recently advanced in the Legislature.

If you ever need assistance navigating state government, or would like to share feedback and suggestions, you can contact my office via email or by phone.

Working for you,

Jeremy Moss

President Pro Tem of the Michigan Senate
State Senator for District 7

STATE SENATOR • DEMOCRAT
JEREMY MOSS

(855) 347-8007 | SenatorMoss.com | SenJMoss@senate.michigan.gov

PROTECT YOURSELF FROM MEDICARE SCAMS

The Michigan Dept. of Insurance and Financial Services (DIFS) and the Michigan Dept. of Health and Human Services (MDHHS) are warning seniors to protect themselves and their personal information from potential scams and high-pressure sales tactics.

Fraudsters posing as Medicare “representatives” are calling unsuspecting consumers about their Medicare coverage and asking for Medicare ID numbers or other personal information, such as a Social Security Number or date of birth. Once scammers have this information, they can use it to make unauthorized changes to your Medicare plan.

DIFS and MDHHS have some important tips for protecting yourself:

- **Never give your Medicare number or other personal information to an unknown caller.** You are always able to get information on Medicare plans without providing an ID number. The only time the Medicare ID number is required is when you are actively enrolling in a plan.
- **Do not give out your personal information if someone calls or visits your home and says they’re from Medicare.** The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services will never call or send someone to your home to ask for personal information or check your Medicare number.
- **Don’t always trust caller ID.** Scammers use technology to make it look like they are calling from a legitimate business or government agency.
- **Ignore anyone who calls saying you must join their prescription drug plan or you will lose your Medicare coverage.** While it is true that there may be a penalty if you delay enrolling in the Medicare prescription drug plan (also known as Part D), that coverage is voluntary.
- **Don’t trust mailers that appear to be government communications but are advertisements for private companies.** These mailers will sometimes have a disclaimer, but it may be buried in small print.



MEDICARE COVERAGE: Medicare.gov or (800) 633-4227 • MEDICARE SCAMS: Michigan.gov/DIFSComplaints or (877) 999-6442

KNOW YOUR RIGHTS: Protect Against Elder Abuse & Fraud

In Michigan, more than 100,000 older adults have been victims of abuse — and many more are targets. Seniors are often vulnerable to abuse, neglect or exploitation, and much of it is unreported or underreported.

Elder Abuse: SEE IT, DOCUMENT IT, REPORT IT

If you or someone you know might be a victim of elder abuse, the Michigan Attorney General’s Office recommends you:

- Take photographs and written notes on what you observed, when you observed it, and who was present, along with any further helpful information.
- Immediately report incidents to the nursing home or health care facility administrator, if applicable.
- Report the abuse to the **Office of the Attorney General** at (517) 335-7560 and the **Michigan Dept. of Health & Human Services Adult Protective Services** at (855) 444-3911.



Meals on Wheels

No one should go without access to healthy meals. If you, or a senior you know, are struggling to pay for food or cook for yourself, Meals on Wheels can help.

This program provides five nutritious meals per week to homebound, older adults. They also offer liquid nutrition for those who are unable to eat solid food and who have a prescription from their physician.

For more information or to determine if you’re eligible for Meals on Wheels, contact **Oakland Meals on Wheels** at (248) 689-0001 or **Detroit Meals on Wheels** at (313) 446-4444.

To qualify for Meals on Wheels, an adult must be:

- 60 years of age or older;
- Homebound (e.g., unable to leave home without assistance and unable to drive);
- Unable to cook for themselves;
- Have no one willing or available to prepare meals on a regular basis; and,
- Able to feed themselves.



Senior Services

Oakland County Health Division
31200 N Telegraph Road
Pontiac, MI 48341
(248) 858-0178
Health@oakgov.com

Wayne County Senior Services
3600 Commerce Court, Building E
Wayne, MI 48184
(734) 326-5202
seniornutrition@waynecounty.com

If you’re looking for information on senior services available in Oakland County, check out the Older Adults’ section of the Oakland County website at Oakgov.com and the Seniors Services section of the Wayne County website at WayneCounty.com. Both websites have quite a bit of good information, including resources available about housing, health, medical, legal issues and local services.

Adult Protective Services, for reports of suspected abuse and neglect	(855) 444-3911
Ageways Nonprofit Senior Services	(248) 357-2255
Attorney General, Consumer Protection Division, for cases of identity theft ...	(877) 765-8388
Attorney General, Office of Elder Abuse	(800) 242-2873
Bridge Card (EBT) – Customer Service	(888) 678-8914
COVID-19 Hotline	(888) 535-6136
Disability Ombudsman	(800) 288-5923
Domestic Violence Hotline	(800) 799-7233
Elder Care Services	(800) 677-1116
Elder Law of Michigan, Inc.	(866) 400-9164
Energy Assistance	211
Medicare & Medicaid Beneficiary Help Line	(800) 642-3195
Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program (MMAP)	(800) 803-7174
Medicare, includes Part D for pharmacy	(800) 633-4227
MI Enrolls – Medicaid Managed Care	(888) 367-6557
Michigan Dept. of Health & Human Services, Medicaid Beneficiary Support..	(800) 642-3195
Michigan Long-Term Care Ombudsman	(866) 485-9393
Michigan Stroke Network	(866) 522-8676
Michigan Veterans Affairs Agency	(800) 642-4838
MI Bridges Help Desk	(844) 799-9876
National Alliance on Mental Illness	(810) 232-6498
Nursing Home Complaints	(800) 882-6006
Relay Center for Deaf and Hard of Hearing	711
Sexual Assault Crisis Intervention	(517) 372-6666
Social Security Administration	(800) 772-1213
Substance Abuse Hotline	(800) 662-4357
Suicide Prevention Crisis Hotline	(800) 273-8255
TAX statements for Adult Home Help	(800) 292-2550
THAW – The Heat and Warmth Fund	(800) 866-THAW (8429)