

Welcome to the Legislative Update for April 17, 2009

This e-mail is provided as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. It is our intent to offer the Legislative Update weekly during the 2009 session of the Arizona State Legislature. The purpose of this service is to keep Arizona's seniors and advocates for aging services informed about bills and action taking place at the Legislature. The information provided is intended to help you form your own opinion about an issue and to give you the necessary resources and contacts to help ensure your perspective and voice are heard. *Please note the Legislative Update is non-partisan in nature.* We thank you for your interest!

GENERAL OVERVIEW:

While the focus on FY 2010 budget continues, legislation is basically idle.

To view a copy of the Governors April 9th Budget Briefing, go to:

<http://www.ospb.state.az.us/documents/BudgetBriefing040909.ppt>

On Thursday, Governor Brewer announced emergency assistance for homeless shelters facing potential closure. To read the press release, visit:

http://www.azgovernor.gov/dms/upload/NR_041609_Homeless%20Assistance_v3.pdf

Today marks the last day by leadership order for consideration of bills in Conference Committee. April 21st is the 100th Day of the session and by House and Senate rule, Sine Die would be April 25th.

At the end of day 96 of the 2009 Arizona Legislative Session, the tally is unchanged - 1099 bills posted, two (2) passed, one (1) signed and 96 memorials and resolutions posted.

Please be advised that the presence of a bill on the Council's web page *does not* represent support or opposition by the Council to that bill. It *does* mean that the bill topic is something that is likely to be of interest to or have an impact on Arizona seniors so the Council is tracking the bill's progress.

STATE LEGISLATION:

Visit the link below to view the Council's web page and the list of bills the Council is tracking.

FULL LIST:

<http://www.azcapitolreports.com/webreport.cfm?webreport=364&listid=13720&print=true>

Highlights of legislative actions taken on bills the Council is tracking include:

H2616: Living Wills; Health Care Directives - 4/13 from House Rules Committee

Scheduled Hearings on bills the Council is tracking include:

H2629: License Plate Obstruction; Wheelchair Holders Hearing: House Rules
4/20/09, 1:00 PM, House Rm. 4

Reminder: Be sure to check the Arizona State Legislature website for Senate, House and Joint Legislative Budget committee agendas and updates to those agendas at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/CommitteeAgendas.asp?Body=H&ShowAll=OFF>

The website FULL List link provides you with the current status and upcoming hearing information about the bills being tracked by the Council and is available and updated on an ongoing basis, 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. *Information about bill status, hearing, etc. is a purchased service provided by the Arizona Capitol Times.*

Contact Your Policymakers: If you have a particular perspective about anything in a piece of legislation that is being considered, you may voice your thoughts by contacting the:

Governor's Office of Constituent Services at 602-542-4331 or toll-free at 800-253-0883

Or you may contact the legislator from your area. If you do not know how to reach your local legislator, start at the homepage under *How do I find My Legislators* or follow the instructions provided at both the Senate and House Member links at the website.

Arizona State Legislature website: <http://www.azleg.gov/>

FEDERAL LEGISLATION:

H. Con. Res. 59

Supporting the goals and ideals of senior caregiving and affordability.

H.Con. Res. 59 was introduced on February 24, 2009 by Representative Terry Lee (R-NE-2). Cosponsors: Rep. Sanford D. Bishop, Jr. (GA-2), Rep. Madeleine Z. Bordallo (GU), Rep. Marcy Kaptur (OH-9), Rep. Ron Klein (FL-22), and Rep. Thaddeus G. McCotter (MI-11)

CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

Supporting the goals and ideals of senior caregiving and affordability.

Whereas 8,000 people in the United States turn 60 years old every day;

Whereas an estimated 35,900,000 people, 12.4 percent of the population, are 65 years of age and older;

Whereas the United States population age 65 and older is expected to more than double in the next 50 years to 86,700,000 in 2050;

Whereas the 85 and older population is projected to reach 9,600,000 in 2030 and double again to 20,900,000 in 2050;

Whereas it is estimated that 4,500,000 people in the United States have Alzheimer's disease today;

Whereas it is estimated that number will increase to between 11,300,000 and 16,000,000 by 2050;

Whereas 70 percent of people with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias live at home, and these individuals are examples of individuals who need assistance in their homes with their `activities of daily living';

Whereas currently over 25 percent of all seniors need some level of assistance with their `activities of daily living';

Whereas in order to address the surging population of seniors who have significant needs for in-home care, the field of senior caregiving will continue to grow;

Whereas there are an estimated 44,000,000 adults in the United States providing care to adult relatives or friends and an estimated 725,000 nonfamily private paid senior caregivers;

Whereas both unpaid family caregivers and paid caregivers work together to serve the daily living needs of seniors who live in their own homes;

Whereas the Department of Labor estimated that paid caregivers for the year 2006 worked a total of 835,000,000 hours, and the projected hours of paid senior caregivers are estimated to increase to 4,350,000,000 hours by 2025; and

Whereas the longer a senior is able to provide for his or her own care, the less burden is placed on public payment systems in State and Federal governments: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress--

(1) focuses on learning more about senior care and being prepared to manage the needs of our aging population;

(2) recognizes caregiving as a profession;

(3) supports the efforts of family caregivers nationwide by encouraging individuals to provide care to family, friends, and neighbors;

- (4) fosters a private home care industry environment that supports enterprise to provide accessible and affordable caregiving services to seniors while providing standardized training to paid caregivers that offers opportunity for their continued growth and development;
- (5) studies alternatives to make caregiving for seniors even more accessible and affordable, and reviews Federal policies that relate to caregiving for seniors;
- (6) examines and continues to fund current Federal programs which address the accessibility and affordability needs of seniors and their family caregivers; and
- (7) encourages the Secretary of Health and Human Services to continue working to educate people in the United States on the impact of aging and the importance of knowing the options available to seniors when they need care to meet their personal needs.

On March 30, 2009, the resolution was referred to House Subcommittee on Healthy Families and Communities.

Arizona is one of the states chosen to participate in the CMS Nursing Home Value-Based Purchasing demonstration project. For more information, visit:

<http://www.cms.hhs.gov/DemoProjectsEvalRpts/MD/itemdetail.asp?filterType=none&filterByDID=-99&sortByDID=3&sortOrder=descending&itemID=CMS1198946&intNumPerPage=10>

Contact Your Congressional Member: If you are interested in Congressional bills or wish to share your thoughts or concerns with your federal representatives, find out how to contact your congressional representatives by visiting:

<http://www.house.gov/> for members of the House or <http://www.senate.gov/> for members of the Senate.

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

WHAT: The 2009 Arizona Alzheimer’s Consortium Annual Conference

WHEN: May 29, 2009, 8 am 5 pm, Renaissance Glendale Hotel & Spa, 9495 W. Coyotes Blvd., Glendale AZ

For more information and to register, go to:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/FormalInviteSheet.pdf>

WHAT: 26th Annual Shi' Woye' Elderfest 2009

WHEN: May 14, 2009, Chief Alchesay Activity Center, Whiteriver, Arizona

For more information and to register, go to:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/8548143.JPG>

WHAT: The Arizona Legislative Information System Workshop

WHEN: Thursday, April 30, 2009, 9am 4pm, The Disability Empowerment Center (DEC), Nina Mason Pulliam Conference Center, 5025 E. Washington Street, Phoenix, AZ 85034

For more information and to register, go to:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/ALISFlyer.pdf>

If you would like to submit an educational or public service event for consideration as a resource or event listing, you can do so by sending an email with the description to: gaca@az.gov.

Please note the Governor's Office on Aging website is in the process of being updated.

Thank you and have a great week!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging