

Welcome to the Legislative Update for October 21, 2009

This e-mail is provided as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. The purpose of this service is to keep Arizona's seniors and advocates for aging services informed about bills and actions taking place at the Arizona State Legislature and to highlight Congressional bills or happenings affecting older Americans. This information is intended to help you shape your own opinion about an issue and to give you the necessary resources and contacts so that you can ensure your perspective and voice are heard. *The Legislative Update is non-partisan in nature.* Thank you for your interest!

Note: At this time, the Legislative Update is being provided *monthly* unless a special session is called prior to the legislative session in January.

GENERAL OVERVIEW:

2010 Budget Update:

As the state's revenue picture continues to grow bleaker, state agencies were asked by the Governor's Office of Strategic Planning and Budgeting to consider and report on the ramifications and impact of 15% cuts to operations should no solution to increasing revenues be achieved.

A copy of the letter of request from OSPB is found here:

http://www.azgovernor.gov/documents/PR_091809_OSPBLetterAgencies.pdf

A series of state agencies budget reports have been posted at the Governor's website. You can access the information at:

<http://www.ospb.state.az.us/BudgetReports.asp>

(Note: While larger agency reports, such as DES and AHCCCS, show impacts affecting seniors, programs and services assisting older Arizonans would be affected by cuts at many other agencies as well.)

The *Monthly Fiscal Highlights Report* for September 2009 from JLBC indicates that August collections were \$(47.5) million below the budget. The full report can be viewed at:

<http://www.azleg.gov/jlbc/mfh-sep-09.pdf>

If you have a particular perspective to share related to the 2010 budget or other concerns, 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**. You can locate your legislator by going to the **Arizona State Legislature website** <http://www.azleg.gov/> and looking for: *How do I find My Legislators* or by following the instructions provided at both the **Senate** and **House Member** links at the website.

FEDERAL LEGISLATION:

H.RES. 751

Title: Encouraging States to adopt laws that set clear guidelines for contact protocols for personal emergency response systems used by the Nation's senior citizens.

H.RES.751 was introduced on September 17, 2009 by Representative Ben Chandler (KY-6). It calls for states to adopt laws that set clear guidelines for contact protocols for personal emergency response systems used by senior citizens.

On 9/17/2009, H.RES. 751 was referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce.

If you want more information specific to this or any bill, go to the Thomas website <http://thomas.loc.gov/> and enter the bill number under *Search Bill Summary & Status*.

Contact Your Congressional Member: If you are interested in Congressional bills or wish to share your thoughts or concerns, 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.

Other News:

2009 H1N1 Influenza Vaccine and Seniors

To read the latest from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, go to: http://www.cdc.gov/H1N1flu/vaccination/vaccine_seniors.htm

The U.S. Department of Health and Human Services and U.S. Department of Justice announced efforts to fight Medicare fraud and medical identity theft of seniors.

Information and a printable brochure were produced by the HHS Office of the Inspector General (OIG) and are available now at <http://www.stopmedicarefraud.gov/> and www.oig.hhs.gov/fraud/idtheft.

For the latest update on Electronic Health Information Exchange, see: http://healthit.hhs.gov/portal/server.pt?open=512&objID=1350&parentname=CommunityPage&parentid=5&mode=2&in_hi_userid=11113&cached=true

U.S. Department of Treasury, Office of the Comptroller of the Currency (OCC) has provided a Reverse Mortgage alert guide. To view, go to: <http://www.occ.gov/ftp/advisory/2009-2.pdf>

INFORMATION & RESOURCES:

WHAT: Independent Living Resources Fair; Hosted by: The Arizona Bridge to Independent Living

WHEN: October 27, 2009; 10 am 3 pm; Nina Mason Pulliam Conference Center and Court Yard, Disability Empowerment Center, 5025 W. Washington. **RSVP** to Lyne at (602) 296-0534.

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/GACA/Newsletter/ILRF.pdf>

WHAT: "Women Talk: Money & More!" Panel Discussion and Resource Fair

WHEN: Wednesday, October 28, 2009, 10:30 am 1:30 pm, Phoenix College John Paul Theatre; **RSVP by October 26** by calling 602-495-373 or 602-534-1557/TTY

For more information:

http://www.azgovernor.gov/GACA/Newsletter/WEF_09.pdf

WHAT: "Together We Care" Arizona Conference on Caregiving

WHEN: Thursday, November 5, 2009, 8 am 4:30 pm; North Phoenix Baptist Church, 5757 N Central Avenue, Phoenix, AZ

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/GACA/Newsletter/AZConfCaregivingBrochure.pdf>

WHAT: 2009 Southeastern Arizona Suicide Prevention Seminar

"Understanding the Problem, Finding Hope in Solutions"

WHEN: Friday, November 6, 2009, 8 am 4:30 pm, Veterans Administration Auditorium, 3601 S. 6th Avenue, Tucson AZ 85723

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/GACA/Newsletter/Nov9SuicideSeminarFlyer.pdf>

WHAT: Honoring Our Veterans Maricopa County Indigenous Circle & The Diversity Office celebrate Native American Day

WHEN: Friday, November 6, 2009, 11:30 am 1:30 pm, Maricopa County Board of Supervisors Auditorium, 205 W. Washington, Phoenix, AZ

For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/GACA/Newsletter/SaveTheDate110609.pdf>

WHAT: 21st Annual Fall Symposium; Geriatrics: Preparing for the Future
WHEN: Friday-Saturday, November 13-14, 2009, Desert Willow Conference Center, 4340 E. Cotton Center Boulevard, Ste 100 in Phoenix, AZ
For more information:

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/GACA/Newsletter/AzGS2009FallSymposiumBrochure.pdf>

November is Family Caregiver Month. Visit <http://www.azcaregiver.org/> for information on related events.

AZ Links Online Options Counselor. The Options Counselor is a self-guided program to help individuals plan for the future. Topics include long-term care options, legal and financial questions, caregiving, emotional health, and civic engagement. Each section offers questions and suggestions to help individuals think about their changing needs as they get older. Visit: <https://egov.azdes.gov/cmsinternet/main.aspx?menu=8&id=46> and select Options Counselor."

If you would like to submit an educational or public service event for consideration, you can do so by sending an email with the description to: gaca@az.gov. Please note: we try to include events of interest to older Arizonans and aging service advocates.

Thank you and have a good rest of the week!

~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging