

## Welcome to the Legislative Update for November 2012

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. The 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: Between legislative sessions, it is our intent to offer our abbreviated email news on a *monthly* basis with a focus on information and resources.

### Fiscal News

From the **Joint Legislative Budget Committee:**

The **JLBC Monthly Fiscal Highlights [October 2012 report](#)** and the **October 18, 2012 [Tracking Arizona's Recovery](#) report** are posted at the Arizona State Legislature's website.

According to the October Monthly Fiscal Highlights report, "Year-to-date, revenues are 3.4% higher than last year and are \$(8.4) million below the budget forecast."

\*\*\*\*\*

Election Day is past and results (unofficial) are posted on the Secretary of State's website linked [here](#). A press release about the ballot processing is posted at: <http://www.azsos.gov/releases/>.

\*\*\*\*\*

### Legislature's Interim Committees

*If you're interested in following the work of the Interim Committees between sessions, the agendas are posted at:*  
<http://www.azleg.gov/InterimCommittees.asp>.

\*\*\*\*\*

51<sup>st</sup> Arizona State Legislature

The Speaker of the House and the Senate President have announced committees and chairs of those committees for the next session starting in January 2013.

(A list of Senate and House assignments for 2013 was included in the 11/18/2012 issue of the *Arizona Republic*.)

\*\*\*\*\*

**Share your thoughts!** If you have a particular perspective to share with the Governor or your legislators, **you may voice your thoughts at any time** by contacting the:

**Governor's Office of Constituent Services** at 602-542-4331 or toll-free at 1-800-253-0883 (outside Maricopa County only) or **contacting your legislator from your area**.

Locate your legislator by going to the **Arizona State Legislature [website](#)** 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.

**District maps** are posted [here](#).

\*\*\*\*\*

### **FEDERAL OVERVIEW:**

Following the election, all eyes are on Washington to learn if an agreement will be reached about the deficit. **Kaiser Health News** offers a perspective on what is at stake for Medicare and Medicaid. *Approaching The Cliff: What's At Stake for Medicare and Medicaid?* is provided [here](#).

Last Thursday, HHS Secretary Kathleen Sebelius announced the deadline for states to submit letters of intent to build state-based health insurance markets called exchanges had been extended to December 14<sup>th</sup>.

### **Legislation**

#### **H.R.4305 Child and Elderly Missing Alert Program**

Introduced on 3/29/2012 by Representative Steve Chabot (OH-1)

#### **Child and Elderly Missing Alert Program**

Amends the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to authorize the Attorney General to award a public safety and community policing grant to an eligible nonprofit organization to assist federal, state, tribal, and local law enforcement agencies in the rapid recovery of missing children and elderly and disabled individuals through the use of a rapid telephone and cellular alert call system.

Permits the use of grant funds to:

- (1) maintain and expand technologies and techniques to ensure the highest level of performance of services;
- (2) provide both centralized and on-site training, and to distribute information, to law enforcement agency officials about missing individuals and use of a rapid telephone and cellular alert call system;

- (3) provide services to Child Abduction Response Teams;
- (4) assist law enforcement agencies to combat human trafficking through the use of rapid telephone and cellular alert calls;
- (5) share appropriate information on cases with the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children, the AMBER Alert, Silver Alert, and Blue Alert programs, and law enforcement; and
- (6) assist appropriate organizations with education and prevention programs related to missing individuals.

On 9/12/2012, referred to Senate committee, received in the Senate and Read twice and referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.

NOTE: Last week, the **U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging** concluded a hearing to examine preventing elder financial abuse, including strengthening efforts to combat elder financial exploitation, after receiving testimony from Kay E. Brown, Director, Education, Workforce, and Income Security, Government Accountability Office; Hubert H. Humphrey III, Assistant Director, Office for Older Americans, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau; Frank W. Abagnale, Frank W. Abagnale and Associates, and Paul Smocer, BITS, on behalf of the Financial Services Roundtable, both of Washington, D.C.; and Paul R. Greenwood, San Diego District Attorney's Office Elder Abuse Prosecution Unit, San Diego, California.

\*\*\*\*\*

**H.R.6295**

**To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to encourage the building of housing for moderate income seniors**

Introduced on 8/2/2012 by Representative Joe Baca (CA-43)

Amends the Internal Revenue Code, with respect to the low-income housing tax credit, to qualify for such credit low-income housing units that are available to individuals who have attained the age of 62 and whose incomes are 140% or less of the income limitation required for occupants of such housing units.

On 8/2/2012, referred to House Committee on Ways and Means.

\*\*\*\*\*

**H.R.6518**

**State Nutrition Assistance Flexibility Act of 2012**

Introduced on 9/21/2012 by Representative Tim Huelskamp (KS-1)

State Nutrition Assistance Flexibility Act of 2012

States that the purpose of this Act is to provide federal financial assistance to the states in the form of a single grant to allow the states flexibility in

providing, and in financing the provision of, supplemental food and nutrition assistance.

Directs the Secretary of the Treasury to provide each qualifying state with a specified quarterly grant for each of FY2013-FY2022.

Requires a state to certify that such supplemental food and nutrition assistance will include specified work and benefits use requirements.

Authorizes states to:

- (1) set aside funds to be used during periods of unexpectedly high unemployment or program enrollment, and
- (2) use up to 30% of funds for other welfare-related programs.

Prohibits supplemental food and nutrition assistance from being provided to aliens not residing legally in the United States.

Requires annual state audits.

Repeals:

- (1) the supplemental nutrition assistance program (SNAP, formerly known as the food stamp program);
- (2) the emergency food assistance program;
- (3) community food projects;
- (4) the commodity supplemental food program;
- (5) the senior farmers' market nutrition program; and
- (6) the fresh fruit and vegetable program.

On 10/9/2012, referred to House to the Subcommittee on Nutrition and Horticulture.

Related Bills: H.R.6567

\*\*\*\*\*

**NOTE:** If you want information specific to a bill, go to the Thomas website <http://thomas.loc.gov/> and enter the bill number or title under *Search Bill*

*Summary & Status.*

**Share your opinions with your Congressional Members!**

If you are interested in sharing your thoughts or concerns, find out how to contact your congressional representatives by visiting:  
<http://www.house.gov/> for the **House** or <http://www.senate.gov/> for the **Senate**. Links to the membership lists include:  
<http://www.house.gov/representatives/> for the **House** and  
[http://www.senate.gov/general/contact\\_information/senators\\_cfm.cfm](http://www.senate.gov/general/contact_information/senators_cfm.cfm) for the **Senate**.

**You can contact the White House at:**  
<http://www.whitehouse.gov/contact/>.

A compilation of contact information is provided at:  
<http://www.usa.gov/Contact/Elected.shtml>.

\*\*\*\*\*

### **OTHER NEWS**

From the **U.S. Department of Health & Human Services:** [alzheimer's.gov](http://alzheimer's.gov)

*For the people helping people with Alzheimer's website:*

<http://www.alzheimers.gov/>

\*\*\*\*\*

**The latest information on the *National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease* can be found [here](#).**

\*\*\*\*\*

From the **Administration for Community Living**

**ACL News & Info, Tuesday, November 13, 2012** issue excerpt

National Resource Center for Participant Directed Services (NRCPDS)  
The Administration for Community Living (ACL) funds a number of resource centers designed to provide information to consumers and technical assistance to professionals on a variety of topics. The National Resource Center for Participant Directed Services, established in April 2009 and formerly the Cash and Counseling Program Office, provides research and technical assistance on increasing choice and control in long term services and supports systems to enable people with disabilities across the lifespan to live independently in the community. NRCPDS receives funds from a number of agencies and organizations including the Robert Wood Johnson Foundation, the Office of the Assistant Secretary for Planning and Evaluation/HHS, the Veterans Administration (VA), and the Administration for Community Living (ACL).

ACL began working with the NRCPDS in the late 1990s to assist aging and disability agencies to develop cash and counseling participant directed programs. In 2008, ACL and NRCPDS partnered with the Veterans Health Administration to develop and implement a nationwide Veteran Directed Home

and Community Based Services (VD-HCBS) program. The VD-HCBS program, with 92 program sites developed since 2008, is currently the main vehicle ACL is using to expand the capacity of the Aging and Disability networks to offer LTSS participant direction models to non-Medicaid populations.

Information about the National Resource Center for Participant Directed Services can be found on their website at <http://www.bc.edu/schools/gssw/nrcpds>. This site includes resources for developing VD-HCBS programs(<http://www.bc.edu/content/bc/schools/gssw/nrcpds/help/programdev/vd-hcbs.html>).

To learn about a new opportunity for aging and disability network agencies to expand services to veterans go to the ACL website: <http://www.hhs.gov/acl/2012/09/11/special-opportunity-to-expand-hcbs-access-for-veterans/>)

If you would like to know more about the Resource Centers that the ACL funds, you can find information at: [http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Resource\\_Centers/Index.aspx](http://www.aoa.gov/AoARoot/Resource_Centers/Index.aspx)

\*\*\*\*\*

From the **AARP Public Policy Institute** *Understanding the Impact of Family Caregiving on Work* is provided [here](#).

\*\*\*\*\*

From the **National Council on Aging**

**November is Family Caregivers Month**

**6 Resources for Family Caregivers** is linked [here](#).

\*\*\*\*\*

From **Sloan Center on Aging & Work at Boston College**

*Blog: The Older Entrepreneur* is linked [here](#).

\*\*\*\*\*

**INFORMATION & RESOURCES:**

**WHAT: 16<sup>th</sup> Annual Vision Rehabilitation and Assistive Technology Expo**

**WHEN: Friday, November 30, 2012**, 9 am to 4 pm, The Shriners Auditorium (The El Zaribah Shrine), 552 North 40<sup>th</sup> Street, Phoenix AZ 85008

**For more information, click [here](#).**

\*\*\*\*\*

**WHAT: Rural Transportation Summit**

**WHEN: January 16 – 18, 2013**, Wild Horse Pass Hotel & Casino, 5594 W. Wild Horse Pass Blvd., Chandler, AZ

**For more information, go to:**

<http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/Newsletter/2012/RTSSaveTheDate.pdf>

\*\*\*\*\*

**November 2012 issue of The Caregiver Connection** (northern Arizona) is available [here](#).

\*\*\*\*\*

Just in case you're interested

Back issues of the **Legislative Updates** are linked on the Council website at: <http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/LegUpdates.asp>.

\*\*\*\*\*

If you would like to submit an educational or public service event for consideration, be sure to send an email with the description to: [gaca@az.gov](mailto:gaca@az.gov). Please note: we try to include events of interest to older Arizonans and aging service advocates.

\*\*\*\*\*

**Have a wonderful Thanksgiving!**

**~Governor's Advisory Council on Aging**