



**AREA AGENCIES ON AGING ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN
ADVOCACY ALERT
August 13, 2009**

**HOUSE REPUBLICANS PROPOSE
DRASTIC CUTS TO AGING SERVICES!**

BACKGROUND:

The state's worsening economy is creating a push for more budget cuts. The 2010 fiscal year begins October 1, 2009, so lawmakers have less than two months to craft a budget for next fiscal year. Both Legislators and the Governor are discussing more cuts to balance the budget. All parties have ruled out an increase in the income tax or sales tax, but closing tax loopholes and sin taxes are being considered by some elected officials.

In July, House Republicans released a new proposal to balance the budget for next year. Their list of recommendations includes a whopping \$24 million cut to state funding in the budget of the Office of Services to the Aging (OSA). Their cut would eliminate 90% of state funding for home-delivered meals and in-home services (homemaker, personal care, care management, etc.). While there are federal funds going into these programs, the state cut means Michigan could also lose federal funding because of match requirements.

Your advocacy is needed to prevent these drastic cuts from being adopted!

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Contact key Republicans by phone or email and protest the drastic cuts in OSA home-based services that would hurt older adults all across the state.

Rep. Kevin Elsenheimer (877) 536-4105 kevinelsenheimer@house.mi.gov
(517) 373-0829

Sen. Ron Jelinek (517) 373-6960 senrjelinek@senate.michigan.gov
(866) 305-2121

You can also contact other House and Senate Republicans and deliver the same message. A list of Representatives and contact information can be found at www.house.mi.gov and Senators can be found at www.senate.mi.gov.

Message: Cutting home-based care won't save money because it will increase Medicaid spending on nursing homes. Care management and access services need even more funding because the Single Points of Entry have been eliminated.

Here are more talking points:

- OSA-funded programs divert seniors from nursing homes where they spend down and go on Medicaid.
- The 90% cut proposed by House Republicans would end services for more than 67,000 older Michiganians.
- Home-based programs need more funds – there are 4,600 people on waiting lists.

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