



**AREA AGENCIES ON AGING ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN**  
**ASSOCIATE MEMBER NEWS**  
**Week of October 12, 2009**

*In Lansing this week . . .* Senate Majority Leader Mike Bishop (R-Rochester) agreed to send the FY 2010 Department of Community Health (DCH) budget (HB 4436) to the Governor next week, moving that spending plan one step closer to completion. After receiving it, the Governor has up to 14 days to consider it. She can either 1) sign the bill making it immediately effective, 2) veto the bill which would require a 2/3 vote of the Legislature to override, or 3) she can veto individual line-items in the bill in which case the rest of the bill is immediately implemented. Since this is a budget bill, some or all of the vetoed programs would likely be reconsidered by the Legislature and a supplemental bill passed to address just those items. To see a complete copy of the bill, go to [www.michiganlegislature.org](http://www.michiganlegislature.org) and type 4436 in the box labeled "Bill Number."

The Area Agencies on Aging Association is urging senior advocates to contact Governor Granholm and ask her to veto most of the line items in the OSA budget, to show her disagreement with the higher level of cuts imposed by the DCH Conference Committee. That conference committee voted to approve 13% cuts in the OSA budget, even though the Governor recommended 7% cuts. Strangely, none of the conference committee members contacted recall a decision being made by the group to increase the level of OSA cuts from 7 to 13%! To raise your voice about the OSA cuts, go to the AAAAM website at [www.mi-seniors.net](http://www.mi-seniors.net), click on the Advocacy page, and select the Advocacy Alert for October 7, 2009.

One little noticed cut in the 2010 DCH budget involves the total elimination of "Physical Disability Services," which provides durable medical equipment, ramps and other environmental modifications to Medicaid recipients in the Home Help program. The program, costing \$1.3 million, provided additional support to frail individuals helping them to stay at home as long as possible.

*Age discrimination is alive and growing . . .* according to an article this week in the Detroit News, which reported the Michigan Department of Civil Rights has seen a 77% increase in their age discrimination complaints over the past three years, from 703 in 2005 to 1,245 in 2008. All but one complaint involved discrimination at work. Complaints are also on the rise at the federal Equal Employment Opportunity Commission (EEOC), which recorded a 36% hike in age bias complaints from 427 in 2005 to 579 in 2008. A researcher at Boston College who sent 4,000 fake resumes to employers for entry level jobs found that those under 50 were 40% more likely to be called for an interview. While the federal EEOC is hiring more investigators to deal with complaints, the Michigan Civil Rights Dept. has laid off 8 out of their 50 investigators and closed the Kalamazoo and Saginaw offices.

*Michigan's premier conference on dementia care . . .* is coming November 2-3 at the Marriott Hotel in Troy. For more information, go to [www.optimaldementiacare.com](http://www.optimaldementiacare.com).

*Learn more about the CLASS Act . . .* on the Kaiser Family Foundation website ([www.kff.org](http://www.kff.org)), which is posting a webcast on the subject on the evening of October 20. The CLASS Act, which creates a national voluntary insurance program for long term care, was championed by Senator Ted Kennedy and included in his health reform bill.