



State Budget Priorities for Fiscal Year 2016

At the end of April, the House of Representatives will debate the State Budget for Fiscal Year 2016. As Chair of the Elder Caucus, I have worked with other legislators and advocates to present the four most important budgetary priorities for seniors to the chair of the House Committee on Ways and Means. The Elder Caucus is advocating an end to waitlists for seniors eligible for home care service, and working to prevent state and federal cuts from affecting seniors in Massachusetts. Our additional priorities include:

• **Local Aid to Councils on Aging:** Local Councils on Aging provide invaluable services and resources to the seniors in our communities. The Elder Caucus has requested an increase in this line item to raise the formula allocation from \$8 per senior/per year to \$12 per senior/per year by 2020. This would be done through an automatic increase of \$1 per senior/per year over the next four budget cycles, starting with \$9 per senior in the fiscal year 2016 budget.

- **Elder Home Care:** The home care services and home care management line items help our elders avoid premature institutionalization. Providing resources to keep elders in their own homes is the right thing to do and has reduced nursing facility costs by over \$853 million in 2015 compared to costs in 2000. The governor's proposed budget has increased Elder Home Care by \$3 million for fiscal year 2016, however seeks to decrease home care management by \$866,667. I will fight against the proposed cuts to home care case management.
- **Elder Protective Services:** The protective services program investigates and resolves elder abuse and neglect and often deals with very complex and volatile family situations. Currently in Massachusetts there are 54 new reports of elder abuse each day. It is imperative that our seniors receive the legal and protective services that they need. The governor's proposed budget increases funding by \$387,476 in the Elder Protective Services line item for fiscal year 2016.
- **Adult Day Health Programs:** Adult Day Health Programs are designed to meet the physical, functional, and social needs of elderly and disabled adults who are unable to live entirely independent. These programs provide nursing care in community settings to people with significant medical needs so that they can avoid hospitalization or nursing home placement. These programs have saved money in nursing home care costs by upwards of \$60,000 per person a year on Medicaid, while an individual participating in Adult Day Health programs cost \$15,000 for an entire year. Adult Day Health programs have seen a \$3.4 million increase in the governor's proposed fiscal year 2016 budget.

(I will continue to advocate on behalf of seniors during this year's budget debate. The House will release its version in the first couple weeks of April, with debate occurring during the last week of April. If you have any questions or concerns regarding these or other budget items, feel free to call the office number below to speak with me.)

800 AGE INFO

I wanted to make everyone aware of this important service provided by the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs and the Mass Home Care Association. 800AGE INFO provides a wide range of resources for seniors and individuals with disabilities. The services provided range from basic assessments and nutrition advice, to more complex services such as home care, employment, education and training, and housing. Getting in touch is as easy as picking-up the phone and calling **1-800-AGE-INFO** (1-800-243-4636.) Additional information and links to services and programs is also available on their website: www.800ageinfo.com. And, if you are having any issues and need assistance, please do not hesitate to contact my office at **(617) 722-2130**.

Hogan's Office Hours for April

I will be holding office hours in Bolton on Tuesday, April 14th from 5:30 to 6:30 pm at the Bolton Public Library, 563 Main Street. Hudson office hours will be held on Tuesday, April 21st from 5:00-6:00 pm at Ariba Coffee, 246 Main Street. Please bring any questions, ideas or concerns you may have.

Proudly represents Bolton, Hudson, Maynard, and Stow

Kate Hogan

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By appointment: Call 617-722-2130 or email Kate.Hogan@mahouse.gov