



FY 2016 House Budget Update

Dear Friends,

This month I want to highlight some of the important FY16 budget appropriations that passed the MA House of Representatives on this spring – that affect seniors. As I write this update, the budget for Fiscal Year 2016 is being considered by the State Senate. I am fighting hard to ensure that Beacon Hill fully funds programs and services that benefit you and all seniors.

There are currently 1.2 million individuals over the age of 60 in the Commonwealth. While the population is expected to grow by 4%, the senior population is expected to grow by more than 20% in the next 5 years. The House FY16 elder affairs budget provides substantial resources to serve the varied needs of this diverse population.

Home Care Services and Supportive Senior Housing

The House budget fully funds enhanced home care programs and services for FY 2016. This funding will ensure there will not be waiting lists for seniors needing home care services. There are also increases to the operation of the Supportive Senior Housing program, to support an “assisted living-like” environment in state funded public elderly and disabled housing. These essential services keep seniors supported and living independently.

Councils on Aging

The House budget increases annual funding for Councils on Aging, from \$8 to \$9 per elder. My goal is to see an increase in this line item by \$1 per senior/per year to \$12 per senior/per year by 2020.

Prescription Advantage Program

The FY16 House budget provides an increase of funds to the prescription advantage program. This is a drug insurance program and our seniors are acutely aware of the increased costs of health care, especially prescriptions, which are a tremendous burden.

Elder Protective Services

The House budget added funding for Elder Protective Services, whose aim will be to assist seniors who are at high risk and are suffering from self-neglect, neglect, physical abuse, emotional abuse, or financial exploitation. The House budget included additional funding for regional Financial Abuse Specialist Teams to investigate and respond to reports of financial exploitation as recommended by the Elder Protective Services Commission.

Meals on Wheels Program

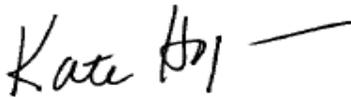
House members successfully advocated for an increase in funding for the Senior Nutrition Program. The FY16 budget also ensures an increase of funding for the Meals on Wheels program- nutritious home delivered meals for seniors who need them.

Please contact my office if you have any questions regarding the FY 2016 budget.

Hogan's Office Hours

I will be holding office hours in Bolton on Tuesday, June 16th from 5:30 to 6:30 pm at the Bolton Public Library, 738 Main Street. Stow Office Hours will be held on Thursday, June 25th from 6:00 to 7:00 pm at the Randall Public Library, 19 Crescent Street. I will also be attending the Stow COA breakfast on June 19th from 7:30 to 9:00am. Please bring any questions, ideas or concerns you may have. If you are unable to attend Office Hours and have an issue or concern, please call the State House at (617) 722-2130 to schedule an appointment with me.

Proudly representing Bolton, Hudson, Maynard, and Stow



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