

June 2017

REP. KATE HOGAN'S SENIOR NEWS



FY18 House Budget

As spring arrives in Massachusetts, so too does the state budget process for Fiscal Year 2018. The intention of the House budget, passed in late April, is to serve as a blueprint for continued economic growth in Massachusetts while investing in the vital programs and resources that our residents rely on and that have made our Commonwealth the number one state in the nation (according to US News & World Report). As I write this update, the budget is being considered in the Senate and will be signed by the Governor this summer.

The House of Representatives remains committed to serving the unique needs of our growing senior population. You are – and will remain – one of my most important priorities. I will continue to support programs that enable seniors, of all ages, to participate in family, community, work, and civic events as valued and respected members of society. Elder programs that received funding in the FY18 House budget include:

- **Councils on Aging:** Municipal COAs are the first stop on the elder care continuum and provide invaluable services.
- **Home Care Services:** The Executive Office of Elder Affairs provides Home Care services to 45,000 elders each month; this includes home health services, personal emergency response, grocery shopping/delivery and more.
- **Elder Protective Services:** These services allow for the investigation of elder abuse and neglect.
- **Elder Nutrition, including Meals on Wheels:** 27 nutrition programs located throughout the state serve over 8.5 million meals to seniors each year.
- **Elder Homeless Placement:** The FY18 budget provides funding for assessment, placement, and homelessness prevention services for homeless and at-risk elders.
- **Financial Literacy:** The FY18 House budget created a commission to study and develop a statewide financial literacy program on personal financial management to be offered to senior citizens in the Commonwealth.

The FY18 House budget also established a licensure scheme for home health agencies, which, if included in the final budget, would bring Massachusetts in line with over 45 other states in licensing these agencies. It is vital that our homebound residents are receiving high quality care in the home and this licensure program will allow the Department of Public Health greater oversight to ensure such care is being given.

Local Transportation

On behalf of my district, I secured \$75,000 in the FY18 House budget to be used for the Maynard & Acton Senior Shuttle. This program provides transportation for approximately 4,000 individual appointments per year. The vans are most often used to bring seniors to appointments at Emerson Hospital in Concord; as a result, those who need transportation for local appointments, grocery shopping and to-and-from the Council on Aging are limited to odd time slots or long waits because the vans must wait for the appointments at Emerson to finish before returning to Maynard or Acton. This funding will add an *additional* driver for a van exclusively dedicated to medical trips in order to provide local seniors with the freedom to maintain their appointments and independence. To schedule a ride, visit: goo.gl/7rFawh.

I publish an annual E-Newsletter with details about the House Budget. If you would like to receive this E-Newsletter, please call 617-722-2130 or email my Communications Director at Kelsey.Schiller@MAhouse.gov.

Rep. Hogan's Office Hours

- **Hudson Office Hours** will be held on Thursday, June 15th from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Hudson Public Library, 3 Washington Street, Hudson.
- **Bolton Office Hours** will be held on Thursday, June 22nd from 6 to 7 p.m. at the Bolton Public Library, 738 Main Street, Bolton.

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. In addition to Rep. Hogan's office hours, her staff is available in the District Office at Maynard Town Hall, 195 Main Street, on Mondays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. (*Closed Holiday Mondays*)

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kate Hogan" followed by a horizontal line.

Proudly represents Bolton, Hudson, Maynard, and Stow
State House, Room 130, Boston, MA, 02133 / Phone: 617-722-2130 / Kate.Hogan@mahouse.gov
District Office: Maynard Town Hall, 195 Main Street, Maynard, MA 01754 / Phone: 978-897-1333