



Addressing Health Priorities for Our Seniors

Last month, Massachusetts hosted the National Conference of State Legislatures' 2017 Legislative Summit. Over 6,000 people – including state legislators, staff, and foreign delegates – assembled in Boston to engage in meaningful discussions about critical matters facing the states. Many sessions were dedicated to health and human services, including how to provide the best care for our growing senior population.

In a session entitled, "Booming Boomers – Preparing for an Aging Population," AARP's Executive Vice President and Chief Advocacy & Engagement Officer, Nancy LeaMond, presented the following four priorities that enhance the health and well-being of seniors and caregivers:

- **The CARE Act** formally recognizes the critical role family members and loved ones play in caring for a patient at home by mandating that hospitals allow a family caregiver's name to be included in a patient's medical record and that these caregivers receive the patient's discharge date and home care procedures. In 2016, the CARE Act became law in Massachusetts – joining 30+ states that have implemented this policy.
- **Respite care** provides caregivers a "respite" while their loved ones receive temporary care in a health care facility. As the senior population grows, caregivers have become increasingly important to health care delivery – but they can also become overburdened by the demands of caring for loved ones with complex needs. Policies that enable greater access to respite care for senior patients will alleviate the burdens placed on caregivers, ensuring their health and, in turn, the health of our seniors.
- **Workplace flexibility** is similar to respite care in that it provides caregivers needed support. Policies giving employees greater flexibility with their work arrangements can make it easier to meet the demands of both their personal and professional lives.
- **Telemedicine** holds great promise to improve health care access for all seniors - especially for those who have trouble traveling or live far from a health care provider. Telemedicine allows health care professionals to care for patients in their homes, through interactive audio-visual technology. Although many insurers cover telemedicine services, not all do. I have proposed **H. 2174, *An Act expanding access to telemedicine services***, which seeks to ensure access by requiring GIC, MassHealth, and commercial insurers to provide coverage for services provided by telemedicine.

I'm proud that state leaders in Massachusetts have taken steps to address these key priorities and I will continue to advocate for seniors. Your health is essential to the well-being of each and every community across our Commonwealth.

E-ZPass at Maynard Fest

I will host an **E-ZPass Van** at the 25th Annual **Maynard Fest** for those interested in signing-up for E-ZPass. The pass enables drivers to pay the lowest possible toll rates under our all-electronic tolling system. At Maynard Fest, a MassDOT official will help you register for a transponder and answer related questions. The E-ZPass Van will be at Maynard Fest on **October 7th from 9 a.m. to 3:30 p.m.** on Nason Street between China Ruby & The Paper Store. *(Look for the purple van!)*

Rep. Hogan's Office Hours

- **Bolton Office Hours:** Thursday, September 14th from 6 to 7 p.m., Bolton Public Library
- **Maynard Office Hours:** Tuesday, September 19th from 6 to 7 p.m., Maynard Public Library

All questions, ideas, or concerns are welcome. If you are unable to attend office hours, call the State House at 617-722-2130 to schedule an appointment. Staff is also available at the District Office on all Mondays from 10 a.m. to 3 p.m. *(Closed Holiday Mondays)*

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