



## GOVERNOR'S ADVISORY COUNCIL ON AGING LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

### **Welcome to the Legislative Update for November 16, 2018**

This e-mail is provided as a courtesy of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. The purpose of this service is to keep older Arizonans and advocates of aging services informed about bills and actions taking place at the Arizona State Legislature and highlight federal legislation or activities affecting older Americans. The information is intended to help you shape your own opinion about an issue and give you the necessary resources and contacts so that you can ensure your perspective and voice are heard. The *Legislative Update* is nonpartisan in nature.

*Between sessions*, we strive to offer monthly issues with a focus on information and resources at the national, state and local level. *Be sure* to open the [links](#) throughout this issue to see the latest news.

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**Legislative election** results [HERE](#) and links to federal, state, judicial and ballot results [HERE](#)

### **Senate**

Senator Karen Fann, District 1 elected [Senate President](#)

Senator Rick Gray, District 21 elected [Senate Majority Leader](#)

Senator Sonny Borrelli, District 5 elected [Senate Majority Whip](#)

Senator David Bradley, District 10 elected [Senate Minority Leader](#)

Senator Lupe Contreras, District 19 elected [Senate Assistant Minority Leader](#)

Senator Jamescita Peshlakai, District 7 elected [Senate Minority Co-Whip](#)

Senator Lisa Otondo, District 4 elected [Senate Minority Co-Whip](#)

### **HOUSE**

Representative Rusty Bowers, Dist. 25 elected [Speaker of the House](#)

Representative Warren Petersen, Dist. 12 elected House Majority Leader

Representative Becky Nutt, Dist. 14 elected House Majority Whip

Representative Charlene Fernandez, Dist. 4 elected House Minority Leader

Representative Randy Friese, Dist. 9 elected House Assistant Minority Leader

Representative Athena Salman, Dist. 26 elected House Minority Co-Whip

Representative Reginald Bolding, Dist. 27 elected House Minority Co-Whip

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### **Fiscal News**

From the **Joint Legislative Budget Committee** – Finance Advisory Committee, Revenue and Budget Update 10/11/18 [HERE](#)

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### **FEDERAL OVERVIEW**

#### **Updates**

#### **\*H.R.4177 PREPARE Act of 2017**

Preparedness and Risk Management for Extreme Weather Patterns Assuring Resilience and Effectiveness Act of 2017 or PREPARE Act of 2017

Bill directs the President to establish the Interagency Council on Extreme Weather Resilience, Preparedness, and Risk Identification and Management (EWR) which shall: (1) establish government-wide EWR goals, (2) develop, recommend, coordinate and track implementation of priority interagency federal government actions related to EWR (3) provide recommendations to the Council on Environmental Quality, the Office of Management and Budget (OMB) and the Department of Homeland Security on how agencies should develop or update agency extreme weather plans, remove barriers to state and local EWR in agency regulations, guidance and policy and avoid duplication among federal activities, (4) issue guidance to agencies on developing agency extreme weather plans and agency regulations, guidance and policies to remove barriers to state and local EWR and (5) publish biannually an inventory of all regional agency offices, centers and programs that assist with EWR at the state and local level.

**11/14/2018 House Committee on Oversight and Government Granted an extension for further consideration ending not later than Dec. 28, 2018.**

### **\*H.R.2683 Protecting Veterans Credit Act of 2017**

Introduced on 5/25/2017 by Representative John K. Delaney (MD-6)

This bill amends the Fair Credit Reporting Act to exclude from consumer report information: (1) a veteran's medical debt if the hospital care or medical services relating to the debt antedates the credit report by less than one year; and (2) a fully paid or settled veteran's medical debt that had been characterized as delinquent, charged off, or in collection.

The bill defines a "veteran's medical debt" as debt from health care provided in a non-Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) facility under the laws administered by the VA, including medical debt that the VA has wrongfully charged a veteran.

A dispute process for veterans medical debt is established whereby:

- a veteran may submit a notice along with proof of VA liability for the debt or documentation that the VA is in the process of paying for authorized medical services to a consumer reporting agency or a reseller in order to dispute such debt's inclusion in the consumer report;
- the VA shall submit to a veteran a notice it has assumed liability for part or all of the veteran's medical debt; and
- if such notice and proof of liability or documentation is received, the consumer reporting agency shall delete all information relating to the veteran's medical debt from the file of the consumer and notify the furnisher and the consumer of such deletion.

**11/14/2018 Placed on Union Calendar, Calendar No. 802**

### **\*H.R.6 SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act**

Introduced on 6/13/2018 by Representative Greg Walden (OR-2)

To provide for opioid use disorder prevention, recovery, and treatment and for other purposes. Includes Medicaid and other provisions to address the opioid crisis

**10/24/2018 Became Public Law No. 115-271**

### **Other Legislation**

#### **\*H.R.7116 Suicide Prevention Assistance Act**

Introduced on 11/6/2018 by Representative Mark Saulnier (CA-11)

To amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a grant program to provide self-harm and suicide prevention services in primary care offices, and for other purposes.

11/6/2018 Referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce

**\*S.3555 Elder Pride Act of 2018**

Introduced on 10/5/2018 by Senator Robert P. Casey (PA)

To amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to establish the Office of Older LGBT Policy and a rural outreach grant program carried out by such office, and for other purposes.

10/5/2018 Read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions.

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Active federal legislation: [HERE](#)

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**Share your opinions with members of Congress!**

If you are interested in sharing your thoughts or concerns, find out how to contact your Representative or Senators by visiting: <https://www.house.gov/> for the **House** or <https://www.senate.gov/> for the **Senate**.

*Links to the membership lists are provided below.*

[House](#) members

[Senate](#) members

Contact the **White House**: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/contact>

USA.gov information: <https://www.usa.gov/agencies>

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Finding resources - **BENEFITS.Gov** – <https://www.benefits.gov/>

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**News & Information**

**National Alzheimer’s Awareness Month – Nov. 17 Shine a Light on All Dementias event from 4 – 6 pm, Arizona State Capitol Front Lawn**

Banner Alzheimer's Institute; Registration [HERE](#)

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**National Institute on Aging – Alzheimer's Disease & Related Dementias Health Information**  
[HERE](#)

What are Palliative Care and Hospice Care [HERE](#)

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**National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease 2018 Update** [HERE](#)

**National Alzheimer's Project Act information** [HERE](#) (be sure to scroll down the page)

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**Chamber Business News 11/16/2018 – Arizona leads the way in Alzheimer's research, new research programs announced during Alzheimer's Awareness Month** [HERE](#)

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**NCOA – Falls Prevention Conversation Guide For Caregivers** [HERE](#), new disaster preparation and recovery tools via BenefitsCheckUp® found [HERE](#) and 2019 Medicare Premiums, Deductibles and Cost Sharing Amounts form [HERE](#).

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**n4a/National Association of Area Agencies on Aging - 2018 Home for the Holidays Campaign** [HERE](#)

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From **Justice in Aging** 11/16/2018

**Bipartisan Bill Introduced to Make HCBS Spousal Impoverishment Protections Permanent**

*Today, Representatives Debbie Dingell (D-MI) and Fred Upton (R-MI) introduced the [Protecting Married Seniors from Impoverishment Act](#), a bipartisan bill to permanently extend financial protections to married seniors who need Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS). The "spousal impoverishment" protection makes it possible for an individual who needs a nursing home level of care to qualify for Medicaid while allowing their spouse to retain a modest amount of income and resources. Although states are required to apply this protection to individuals in nursing homes, Congress only temporarily extended it to*

individuals eligible for HCBS and it is set to expire on December 31, 2018.

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**Kaiser Health News**

At Death's Door, Shedding Light On How To Live [HERE](#) (Graham, 11/8/2018)

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**NASUAD/National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities - HCBS Clearinghouse** – *Understanding and Working with Adult Protective Services* [HERE](#)

Harvard Joint Center for Housing Studies *Housing America's Older Adults 2018* [HERE](#)

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**Governing** - The States and Localities - Data/Health

Suicide Death Rates for U.S. Counties [HERE](#) (See map)

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**INFORMATION& RESOURCES**

**Federal Transit Administration** – is sponsoring 5 Advancing Mobility Management courses “designed to help build the capacity of transit professionals to implement and scale up mobility management strategies and initiatives and expose participants to promising practices in the field.” More information [HERE](#)

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**November is National Family Caregiver Month**

**Alzheimer’s Association** - Five Tips for Caregivers [HERE](#)

**AARP and Alzheimer’s Association Community Resource Finder** [HERE](#)

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**November Social Security Workshops**

*Sunrise Mountain Library* **Tues. November 27 at 5:00 P.M.**, 21109 N 98th Ave, Peoria, AZ 85382 register by email at [peoriasupport@peoriaaz.gov](mailto:peoriasupport@peoriaaz.gov) (include name, zip code and name of class, “Social Security”) or by calling **623-773-7070**.

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**Arizona Geriatrics Society 30<sup>th</sup> Annual Fall Symposium – Geriatric Trauma – Real Problems, Real Solutions: Putting Trauma Informed Care into Practice**

**Friday, Nov. 30 – Saturday, Dec. 1**, Beatitudes Campus, 1610 W Glendale Avenue, Phoenix AZ

Information & registration link [HERE](#)

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**2018 Health Current Summit & Trade Show – Dec. 3-4, 2018**

Integrated HIE: The progress of Patient-Centered Care

Renaissance Phoenix/Glendale Hotel & Spa, Glendale AZ

Information and Registration [HERE](#)

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**Arizona Summit on Volunteerism & Civic Engagement - December 6 - 7, 2018**, ASU West Campus, Glendale AZ

Registration & information [HERE](#)

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**AARP Caregiver Resource Fair - December 7**, Ross Farnsworth YMCA 1807 S. Sunview, Mesa AZ 85206 - RSVP or share with others [HERE](#)

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**Save the Date – April 8-10, 2019**

**Arizona’s 32<sup>nd</sup> Annual Statewide Transit Conference**, AzTA ADOT – at the Sheraton Mesa at Wrigleyville West

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**ADOT Motor Vehicle Division** gets award for improved customer service and innovation [HERE](#)

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**Plan now for next session**

Arizona State Legislature website: [www.azleg.gov](http://www.azleg.gov)

Need to learn more about the legislative process? See [Arizona Bill](#) or [Bill to Law](#).

Find and review bill information [HERE](#).

Learn about the budget process [HERE](#).

Research the State Constitution [HERE](#).

Learn more at *Frequently Asked Questions* linked [HERE](#).

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**Voice your opinion at any time!** If you have a particular perspective to share with the Governor or your Legislators ***at any time***, you may voice your thoughts by contacting the:

- **Governor's Office of Constituent Services** at **602-542-4331 in Phoenix; 520-628-6580 in Tucson; in-state toll-free at 1-800-253-0883 ( outside Maricopa County only)** or email: [engage@az.gov](mailto:engage@az.gov)
- **Legislators** from your area. You can locate your legislator by going to the **Arizona State Legislature** website and looking for: [Legislative Maps](#)

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**In case you missed it last time:**

**National Institute on Aging** – fact sheets about oral health and older adults [HERE](#)

Alzheimer's disease clinical trials finder [HERE](#)

Aging in Place: Tips on Making Home Safe and Accessible [HERE](#)

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**National Council on Aging/NCOA** How to Choose a Medicare Plan During the Open Enrollment Period [HERE](#)

*10 Questions to Better Understand Your Medication and Risk of Falling* [HERE](#)

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**Medicare Open Enrollment – October 15 – December 7**



\*The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services - 2019 Medicare Parts A & B Premiums and Deductibles [HERE](#)

\*mlnconnects – CMS News - Thursday, October 25, 2018 [HERE](#)

\*DES Division of Aging and Adult Services - State Health Insurance Assistance (SHIP) information [HERE](#)

\*\*Find the local SHIP Offices - [HERE](#)

\*Assistance in Maricopa County through Area Agency on Aging Region One [HERE](#)

\*Center for Medicare Advocacy – Choosing Between Traditional Medicare and Medicare Advantage [HERE](#)

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Medicare.gov - Identify theft resources for people with Medicare [HERE](#)

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### Kaiser Health News

*Dementia And Guns: When Should Doctors Broach The Topic?* [HERE](#) (Bailey, 10/12/2018)

*Will Maine Voters Decide To Make Aging In Place Affordable?* [HERE](#) (Graham, 10/11/2018)

*Elder Orphans Or Solo Agers, Who lack Children Or A Spouse To Care For Them, Need A Plan B On Aging* [HERE](#) (Graham, 10/4/2018)

*A Late-Life Surprise: Taking Care of Frail, Aging Parents* [HERE](#) (Graham 8/23/2018)

*Learning To Live Well With Dementia* [HERE](#) (Graham, 8/9/2018)

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Justice in Aging - New Final Rule from VA Impacts Needs-Based Program [Fact Sheet](#)

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PHI latest news: <https://phinational.org/news/>

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**AARP Fraud Watch webpage [HERE](#)**

**Arizona Attorney General’s office press release regarding dark web scam [HERE](#)**

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**Alzheimer’s Association Statement on Justice Sandra Day O’Connor’s Announcement of Dementia Diagnosis [HERE](#)**

**Governor Ducey’s statement [HERE](#)**

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**ADOT – Travel ID**

People wanting the ID (ahead of the 10/2020 deadline) are encouraged to make an appointment at <https://servicearizona.com/> to visit an MVD office. Authorized third party driver license locations [HERE](#).

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**Vitalyst Health Foundation – Fiscal Year 2018 Annual Report [HERE](#)**

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**Ongoing Resources**

From the **Governor’s Office**

See the latest news at: **Newsroom: <http://azgovernor.gov/newsroom>**

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**ADOT:**

Latest news releases, blogs and more [HERE](#)

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**AHCCS News & Updates:**

<https://www.azahcccs.gov/shared/news.html>

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Arizona Department of Economic Security Feature Stories [HERE](#)

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Arizona Attorney General’s Latest News [HERE](#) and Senior Resources [HERE](#)

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Arizona Department of Health Services

Latest News [HERE](#)

Public Health Licensing [HERE](#)

Arizona Healthy Aging (A- HA) [HERE](#)

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Arizona Association of Area Agencies on Aging/AZ4A

Map of Regions [HERE](#)

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**TRACKING LIST:** The Governor’s Advisory Council on Aging tracks legislation that has the potential to impact older Arizonans; the bills are found in the **FULL List** linked [HERE](#).

Please be advised that the presence of a bill on a tracking list *does not* represent support or opposition by the Governor’s Advisory Council on Aging. It *does* mean that the topic is something likely to be of interest or have an impact on older Arizonans. Information about bills is a purchased service provided by *Arizona Capitol Times*.

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Past issues of the *Legislative Updates* are linked on the Council website at: <http://www.azgovernor.gov/gaca/LegUpdates.asp>

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You can help circulate resource information. If you would like to submit an **educational** or **public service event** for consideration, be sure to send an email with the description and a link to: [gaca@az.gov](mailto:gaca@az.gov). Please note: we try to include events of interest to older Arizonans and aging service advocates and refrain from including marketing or fundraising materials.

If you would like on-going education and public service event information, send a request to be

added to the **Aging in Community Committee** of the Governor’s Advisory Council on Aging.

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Between legislative sessions, it is our intent to offer the *Legislative Update* monthly.

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**We’re wishing you a wonderful Thanksgiving.**

**~Governor’s Advisory Council on Aging**



If you wish to be REMOVED from or know someone who would like to be ADDED to the Update, please send an email to: [gaca@az.gov](mailto:gaca@az.gov) and ask to be unsubscribed or subscribed to the **Legislative Update**.