

SENIOR UPDATE



NEW LAWS WILL PROTECT SENIORS

Our seniors must feel safe in the place they call home.

I supported new laws to protect seniors and foster care adults by requiring FBI criminal history checks on people who want to own or operate a nursing home or adult foster care facility. The expertise and resources of the FBI will be a big help in safeguarding our most vulnerable adults from criminals.

Public Acts 51 and 52 of 2012 step up protections against abuse or mistreatment for seniors who are cared for in these facilities.

I look forward to greeting Southwest Michigan residents each year on Older Michiganians Day at the capitol

NEW NUMBER FOR COMPLAINTS INVOLVING ABUSE OR NEGLECT

1-855-444-3911

When it comes to protecting our vulnerable adults, it's important that the first call is the right call. **A new 24-hour, toll-free number is now in service to report senior or child abuse or neglect.** The Central Intake call center is available to everyone, including the general public and professionals required by law to report suspected abuse, like physicians and law enforcement.

PROTECTING SENIORS FROM PHYSICAL AND FINANCIAL HARM

It's hard to imagine someone taking advantage of a senior or vulnerable adult. Yet too many seniors are victims of financial, even physical, abuse or neglect.

The Michigan Senate has championed legislation that will better protect seniors by:

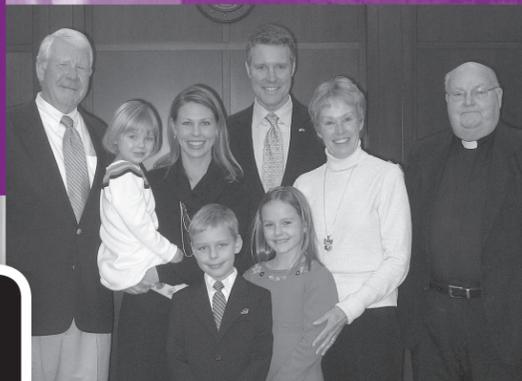
- increasing banking, annuity and insurance protections;
- creating a medical "AMBER Alert" system for missing seniors;
- increasing fines for embezzling money from seniors; and
- establishing requirements to report suspected abuse or neglect.

Our seniors have spent a lifetime working and caring for others. Surely they should be able to trust those they rely on in their later years.

CAREGIVERS' CORNER

One in four households is involved in caregiving for a loved one aged 50 or older. Sometimes families need help with certain activities.

Caregivers can locate services, or find out about other programs and resources at www.michigan.gov/miseniors.



PUMP GUIDE ASSISTS MOTORISTS WITH DISABILITIES

The Michigan Paralyzed Veterans of America has helped develop a great online service to make travel easier for disabled drivers.

The group sponsors the Pump Guide, a directory of gas stations across the state that offer travelers with disabilities full service at self-service prices. To qualify for assistance, drivers must have a state-issued disability license plate or windshield card.

The guide lists over 800 participating gas stations, along with their location, hours, and amenities such as snack shops, ATMs, accessible restrooms and more.

Find the directory at www.ThePumpGuide.com.

FROM ASPARAGUS TO ZUCCHINI

Whether it's a bowl of berries in June or a crisp ear of sweet corn in August, there's something special about fresh, just-picked food! Michigan produces more than 200 commodities, so you're sure to enjoy flavorful fruit, produce and much more at one of Michigan's many farmers' markets. Visit www.michiganfarmfun.com to view the 2012 farm market directory.



WISE CHARITABLE GIVING

Did you know that seniors age 65 and older receive more phone and mail requests for charitable donations than any other age group?

The Michigan attorney general's office reminds seniors to BEWARE when asked to donate to a charity, especially an unfamiliar one, and look for any of these warning signs:

- **B**ill or invoice sent to you – even if you haven't pledged any money.
- **E**vasive or vague answers to your questions about the charity.
- **W**ords in the charity's name that closely resemble a well-known charity.
- **A**llowing no time to reconsider your pledge, or trying to collect your donation immediately.
- **R**efusal to answer questions about where your money goes, or provide a receipt.
- **E**motional appeals or high pressure tactics to make a quick decision.

Whether you give to help others in your local community or around the world, it's important to know where your money is going and how it will be used. If you have questions about a charity, you can call the attorney general's Charitable Trust Section at 517-373-1152 or visit www.michigan.gov/agcharities.

CAREER AND TECHNICAL EDUCATION COULD HELP OUR CHILDREN STAY IN MICHIGAN

This year, I co-sponsored legislation introduced in the Michigan Senate to allow options for students to count additional career and technical education courses towards the state's high school graduation requirements.

We have done much to make Michigan more competitive in the pursuit of jobs, including manufacturing jobs. While we work to bring these jobs to our state, we must ensure that our children will have the skills necessary to land these jobs.

Senate Bill 997 would revise the state's high school graduation requirements to allow some credits to be filled through career and technical courses, which would include work-based learning by a student like an internship or apprenticeship.

As the current workforce ages and retires, Southwest Michigan manufacturers are finding it increasingly difficult to find young people with the technical skills needed for these jobs. A career in manufacturing is a great option for many young people, and it provides a way for families to stay together and thrive right here in Michigan.