

SENIOR Update

2022

DEAR FRIENDS:

Our state's natural beauty, bountiful resources and resilient, hardworking people make Michigan a truly special place to live.

In the Michigan Senate, we are working to overcome the challenges of the last few years, and responsibly manage our state's financial resources, so that Michigan remains a thriving place for our children and grandchildren to prosper.

I am pleased to offer you this update, outlining our efforts to protect the safety and well-being of our senior citizens. It is an honor to be your voice in Lansing. Please don't hesitate to call me with any questions or concerns or if you need assistance with any state matter.

May you and yours be blessed with health and happiness!

Sincerely,



STATE SENATOR

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Michigan
REAL ID



The REAL ID ACT is a federal requirement for increased security in the production of driver's licenses and state ID cards and includes added features to prevent illegal copying or altering.

On May 3, 2023, the REAL ID Act will go into effect in the U.S. Anyone who plans to fly within the United States will need a REAL ID. A REAL ID will also be required to enter some federal facilities such as military bases.

A valid U.S. passport, DHS Trusted Traveler Card or an enhanced driver's license all qualify as a REAL ID. Your Michigan driver's license or state ID card can become REAL ID-compliant by visiting a secretary of state branch office with the required documents. For more information on the REAL ID or to make an appointment to have your Michigan driver's license or ID updated, please visit

<https://www.michigan.gov/sos/license-id/real-id>.



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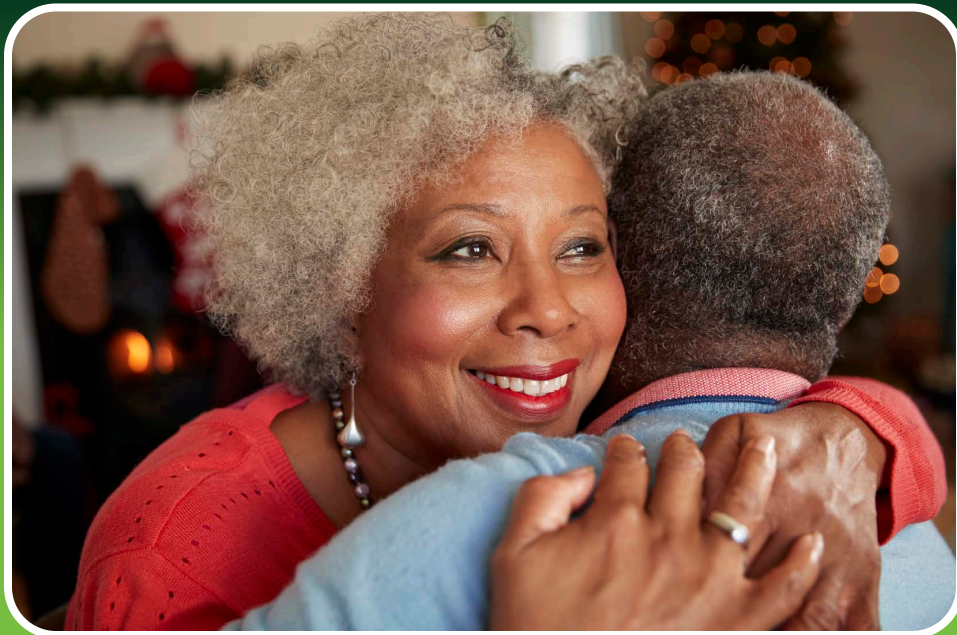
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NEW LAW TO HELP MAKE PRESCRIPTION DRUGS MORE AFFORDABLE

Legislation to improve access to and lower the cost of prescription drugs was recently signed into law.

Public Act 11 of 2022, also known as the Pharmacy Benefit Manager Licensure and Regulation Act, will hold pharmacy benefit managers accountable and will allow pharmacies to be more competitive, provide more affordable prescription drugs to patients across Michigan, and will bring reporting and transparency to a previously unregulated process.

Michigan is one of the last states to regulate pharmacy benefit managers. This new law will protect Michigan consumers and combat the rising cost of prescription drugs.



GUARDING SENIORS & VULNERABLE ADULTS

Public Act 28 of 2021 improves oversight of individuals who provide services at local branches of the state's Area Agency on Aging by requiring them to conduct criminal background checks on each employee, independent service provider, and volunteer backdated to Oct. 1, 2020.

Applicants are now disqualified from working directly with elder adults or having access to any of their personal information if they have been convicted of crimes such as murder, manslaughter, kidnapping, arson, assault, battery or domestic violence – as well as financial, sexual conduct, abuse and neglect or firearm offenses.

It is important to ensure the safety of our loved ones. This law provides that security.



REAL TAX RELIEF FOR EVERY MICHIGAN SENIOR

Over the last 10 years, the Legislature has insisted on responsible spending. Because of that diligence, we now have a surplus in our state budget. The responsible thing to do is to return some of the state's surplus back to hardworking Michigan families and seniors.

The Legislature recently passed Senate Bill 768, which would have provided families with a \$500 per child tax credit and reduced the individual income tax from 4.25% to 3.9%. This historic \$2.5 billion tax relief plan would have lowered taxes on hardworking families, saving an average family of four approximately \$1,200 annually.

The bill also included relief for every Michigan senior — not just those with government pensions. This plan increased the tax deduction for seniors up to \$40,000 for individuals and \$80,000 for couples and allowed more seniors to qualify for the exemption by lowering the age for eligibility from 67 to 62.

Unfortunately, the governor vetoed this needed tax relief. I will continue to support measures that let you and your family keep more of your hard-earned dollars.

PROTECTING LONG-TERM CARE RESIDENTS

I was proud to support Senate Bill 213, now Public Act 159 of 2021, which ensures the state's Long-Term Care Ombudsman can conduct investigations when needed so residents and families can be assured quality care is being received.

Michigan's Long-Term Care Ombudsman serves as an advocate for the vulnerable residents living in nursing homes and other facilities in our state. During the coronavirus pandemic, some disturbing situations in long-term care facilities did not receive the proper oversight they deserved because of lockdown measures that stood in the way of the ombudsman's office from doing its job.

I will always work to make sure that the most vulnerable in these facilities are receiving the care they deserve and that all incidents are investigated. This new law allows the state's Long-Term Care Ombudsman to do its job regardless of any visitation restrictions.



LOCAL SERVICES NEAR YOU

Seniors anywhere in Michigan have access to experts so that they maintain their independence at home or in their community through the Michigan Area Agencies on Aging. There are 16 agencies that can provide information, resources, and support on issues ranging from in-home services and housing options to home-delivered meals and care management. They can also provide legal assistance, counseling, or help with nursing facility transitions.



To find your local Area Agency on Aging, please visit Michigan.gov/osa.