

Putting People First

WORKING FOR MICHIGAN'S SENIORS

Dear Friend,

Seniors spend their lives building up our state and preparing the next generation. Many seniors continue to contribute to our community, but it's important to remember that sometimes they need our help, too. Many live on a fixed income and struggle to buy nutritious food, pay for prescriptions and keep up with rising utility costs.

In this newsletter, you'll find tips and resources for seniors in our community to help them tackle these challenges head on and build a bright and secure future for themselves. If you need additional assistance, please don't hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,



STATE REPRESENTATIVE
VERONICA PAIZ



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Prepared by the Michigan Legislature.

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Seniors 2024



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STATE REPRESENTATIVE

SENIOR SCAM AWARENESS TOWN HALL

Special guest Michigan Attorney General Dana Nessel will join me for a **Senior Scams Awareness Town Hall**. Community members are welcome to learn about scams affecting our senior citizens in day-to-day life and to ask questions and get answers on how to avoid these scams and what to do if you're a target. **This important town hall will be Friday, April 5, from 1:30 - 3:30 p.m. at the Love Rising Lutheran Church, 21230 Moross Road in Detroit. I hope to see you there!**



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MAKING HEALTH CARE MORE ACCESSIBLE

Affordable Care Act (ACA) protections require private health plans to cover many critical preventive services without cost sharing — these bills serve to codify those reforms and protections in Michigan statute. Lawmakers in both chambers have worked together to ensure these protections. House Bill 4622 prohibits insurance providers from placing caps on annual or lifetime insurance benefits. You deserve to access the health care you need without artificial, profit-driven barriers.

PRESCRIPTION DRUG AFFORDABILITY BOARD LEGISLATION

House Democrats are committed to lowering prices for our seniors. This is why House Democrats are working to lower the costs of prescription drugs by creating a Prescription Drug Affordability Board. Legislation has been introduced to authorize the creation of an independent, nonpartisan board to evaluate prescription drug costs and related impact on Michiganders and establish upper payment limits on prescription drugs sold in the state. No one should have to choose between getting their prescription drugs and putting food on the table, especially our seniors who are living on fixed incomes. It's time that we put people before profits and ensure that everyone is able to afford their lifesaving medication.

DRUG IMMUNITY

We are keeping drug companies accountable to you by repealing Michigan's law that granted a blanket immunity to pharmaceutical manufacturers and sellers from being sued by the state or individuals if people were harmed by prescription drugs. This was the only law of its kind in the nation. Most prescription drugs are safe when used as directed, but when medication causes undue harm, you deserve the ability to sue that residents of every other state can access. This carveout was unfair to Michiganders, especially our seniors who are more likely to rely on prescription drugs. That is why I'm proud that I was able to support legislation that added these patient protections to Michigan law.



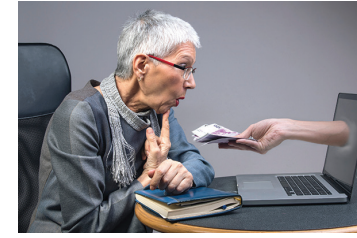
PROTECTING YOU: GUARDIANSHIP REFORM

As our society ages, protecting and caring for our seniors and citizens with disabilities becomes increasingly vital. Guardians and conservators play a crucial role in safeguarding these individuals' rights and well-being. This responsibility goes beyond mere legal oversight. It represents a commitment to ensuring the dignity, autonomy and security for many senior citizens and people with disabilities.

In recent years, there has been a growing awareness of the need for transparency and accountability in the guardianship and conservatorship system. High-profile cases have brought to light instances of abuse and exploitation. These incidents underscore the urgency of implementing additional safeguards to protect the rights of vulnerable individuals and prevent abuses of power. Such incidents should serve as a call to action for reform and improved oversight. Democrats in Lansing have answered that call.

Recent bipartisan legislation is a result of recommendations from the Attorney General's Elder Abuse Task Force. It will help support guardians and conservators, protect their wards and provide extra resources for those who take on these important responsibilities.

FIVE TIPS TO PROTECT YOURSELF FROM SCAMMERS



1. **End a phone call** right away if you have any suspicions about the caller.
2. **Never provide your Social Security number**, bank account information or Medicare number to someone who calls, texts or emails you.
3. **Never use a gift card or wire transfer** to make a payment.
4. **Never open email attachments or links** unless you know the sender.
5. **Join the National Do Not Call Registry.**

For more information, go to the website for the Administration for Community Living at bit.ly/3SFIUsM. You can also review the Department of Attorney General's Imposter Scams page at bit.ly/3uRBaL4.



HELPFUL RESOURCES

- Adult Protective Services (855) 444-3911
- Attorney General's Consumer Protection Division (877) 765-8388
- Department of Civil Rights (800) 482-3604
- Department of Education (833) 633-5788
- Department of Health and Human Services (517) 241-3740
- Department of Insurance and Financial Services (877) 999-6442
- Elder and Child Abuse and Neglect Hotline (855) 444-3911
- Elder Law of Michigan (866) 400-9164
- Medicare Assistance (800) 803-7174
- Social Security Administration (800) 772-1213

