



# **CALIFORNIA SENIOR LEGISLATURE**

## **SANTA CLARA COUNTY NEWS**

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Senior Senator Bob Jaffee, Editor

**THE STATE LEGISLATURE HAS BEEN IN SPECIAL SESSION NEGOTIATING THE STATE BUDGET. IT IS INCUMBENT UPON THE STATE TO PROVIDE HUMANITARIAN SERVICES FOR IT'S CONSTITUENTS**

### **CSL LEGISLATIVE SESSION STATE TOP TEN PRIORITIES**

**SP-22 -Sr. Senator Eaton-CSL FUNDING REPEAL DATE.** Proposal would extend the repeal date for contributions to the California Fund for Senior Citizens. (Code 402).

**AP-3 Sr. Assembly Member Krohn: Sunset date for Financial Elder Abuse reporting Act.**

Proposal removes the repeal date of the Financial Elder Abuse Reporting Act.

**AP7 Sr. Assembly Member Lucero: Hearing Aid Availability and Cost.** Proposal requires that hearing aids be made available for over-the counter sales and vendors be encouraged to submit a plan to the Hearing Aid Dispensers Bureau.

**AP-8 Sr. Assembly Member Lucero: Pharmaceutical Expiration Date.** Proposal requires pharmaceutical manufacturers to include a "best before" date on packaging.

**AP-9 Sr. Assembly Member Loh: Nursing Home Reform.** Proposal increases staffing levels in nursing homes, and ensures Departmental protection and guidance for high-quality care.

**AP-17 Sr. Assembly Member Young: Nursing home End-of-Life Privacy.** Proposal requires nursing homes to provide privacy for a resident who has been diagnosed as terminal.

**AP-19 Sr. Assembly Member Wolfe: Grading System for Nursing Homes.** Proposal Establishes a user-friendly compliance grading system for long-term care facilities.

**AP-20 Sr. Assembly Member Tucker: Medi-Cal Monthly Allowances.** Proposal increases the monthly allowance for personal and incidental needs for a Medi-Cal beneficiary.

**SP-3 Sr. Senator Griswold: Property Exemptions.** Proposal increases the homeowner's property tax exemption from \$7,000 to \$27,000 for seniors.

**SP-6- Sr. Senator Murphy: Silver Alert Program.** Proposal establishes a missing persons program called Silver Alert to protect persons suffering from Alzheimer's or dementia who roam away from home. California's Senior Legal Hotline.

**SP-23 Sr. Senator Young: Support for the Ombudsman Program and the Senior Legal Hotline.** Proposal requires the immediate reinstatement of State core support of the Ombudsman Programs and the Senior Legal Hotline, and assistance to restore and expand the Federal funding for California's Senior Legal Hotline.

### **FEDERAL—TOP FOUR LEGISLATIVE PROPOSALS**

**AFP-1 Sr. Assembly Member Loh: Cost-of Living Adjustment for Social Security.** Proposal authorizes SSA to replace the federal poverty line and COLA adjustment with the elder economic security standard index.

**SFP-2 Sr. Senator Murphy: Silver Alert Program.** Proposal establishes a federally coordinated program known as Silver Alert to locate missing persons with dementia and federal grant program to fund states development.

(OVER)

**SFP-4 Sr. Senator Cox: Medicare coverage of dental care.** Proposal expands Medicare coverage to include dental care and dental plates.

**AFP-7 Sr. Assembly Member Lopes: Medical Expense Tax Deductions.** Proposal allows persons 65 and older to fully deduct all medical expenses.

## **SECOND ADDITIONAL STATE AND FEDERAL PRIORITIES**

**AP-6 Sr. Assembly Member Lucero: Food Safety Labels.** Proposal requires that packaged food sold in California. Include an obvious marking of the date after which the contents should not be consumed.

**AP-10 Sr. Assembly Member Loh: SSI/SSP Yearly Adjustments.** Proposal requires consideration of UCLA's Elder Standard Index to guide the yearly adjustment of SSI/SSP benefits.

**AP-12 Sr. Assembly Member Gerbracht: Sexual Abuse or touching of Elders.** Proposal adds infliction of unjustifiable sexual abuse or touching to the list of crimes against elders.

**AP-14 Sr. Assembly Member Bloch: Disaster Emergency Transportation for Elders and Disabled.** Proposal requires the mobilization of paratransit and other modes of transportation to move disabled and seniors to a safe place to receive services during a natural disaster

**\*\*AP-21 Sr. Assembly Member Sorenson: Convalescent Care Facility Personal Equipment I.D.** Proposal requires convalescent care facilities to permanently identify patient's personal equipment.

**AP-24 Sr. Assembly Member Weintraub: Corporate Owned Multiple Nursing Home Accountability.** Proposal requires corporations owning more than 5 nursing homes to identify a single entity that is accountable for care and operation.

**SP-1 Sr. Senator Faustman: Universal Health Care.** Proposal requires the adoption of a premise that health care is a basic human right and the creation of a universal health care system

**SP-5 Sr. Senator Lundin: Long-Term Facility Security.** Proposal increases security and surveillance at all long-term care facilities and provides security training.

**SP-11 Sr. Senator Lundin: Financial Institution Financial Abuse.** Proposal prevents financial institutions from targeting and abusing seniors, preventing seniors from entering into bad investments.

**SP-19 Sr. Senator Orange: Prescription Medication labels.** Proposal requires doctors to inform pharmacies of the purpose of the prescriptions and the pharmacy to list the information on the label.

**AFP-2 Sr. Assembly Member Weintraub: Nursing Home Ownership Disclosure.** Requires investment groups ownership

**AFP3- Sr. Assembly Member Young: Federal Poverty Guidelines.** Proposal requires re-evaluation and adjustment of federal poverty guidelines to accurately reflect senior's basic cost of living.

**AFP5 Sr. Assembly Member Godager" Durable Social Security Cards.** Proposal requires that Social Security cards be made of more durable material and redesigned.

**SFP-6 Sr. Assembly Member Sorensen: Unsolicited Blank Checks.** Regulation requiring distribution of blank checks with personal identification placing the recipient at risk of identity and money theft.

## **INCOME TAX FOR 2008 IS DUE APRIL 15<sup>th</sup> 2009**

**PLEASE REMEMBER YOUR CONTRIBUTION TO THE "CALIFORNIA FUND FOR SENIORS, CITIZENS"-(CALIFORNIA SENIOR LEGISLATURE (CSL)**

**"The California Senior Legislature is an organization composed of state elected members, whose main goal is to help senior citizens by generating bill proposals on senior issues. This organization does not get any state, general or federal funds. Its operating funds come from the State Income Tax donations CODE 402."**

### **SENIOR LEGISLATORS SERVING SENIORS IN SANTA CLARA COUNTY**

Sr. Senator	Sr. Senator	Sr. Assembly	Sr. Assembly	Sr. Assembly
Bob Jaffee	Anne Mack	Austin E. Lucero	Foster Lopes	Denny Weisgerber
985-2457	1-650) 493-7798	293-6431	984-3304	262-1776