



# **CALIFORNIA SENIOR LEGISLATURE**

## **SANTA CLARA COUNTY NEWS**

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Senior Senator Bob Jaffee, Editor

### **CSL 2006 LEGISLATIVE SESSION**

#### **STATE PRIORITIES**

##### **CSL URGENCY PROPOSAL**

###### **AP-28 Sr. Asy.member Monck & Sr. Senator Levy- LONG-TERM CARE OPTIONS**

**SENATORS ALQUIST & DYMALLY-BILL SB 633.** *This proposal would establish the right of any person in need of long-term Care services that are available in an institutional setting to receive those services in the community and to make changes in programs and agencies to implement that right.* **HEARING SCHEDULED MAY, 9<sup>TH</sup>.**

###### **AP-14- Sr. Asy.member Lucero-Hearing Aid Availability and Cost. ASY.MEMBER**

**DYMALLY—AB 311**-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 . **ASSEMBLY HEALTH COMMITTEE.**

###### **AP-19-Sr. Asy.member Trotter- SENATOR CORREA- Senior Facility Infrastructure Upgrades.**

**SENATOR CORREA-SB 977.** Proposal establishes a study of the infrastructure needs being shaped by increases in the senior population and includes funding for upgrades and renovations. **TRANSFERRED TO RULES COMMITTEE.**

###### **AP-25-Sr.Asy. members Tucker,wieck & Young & Sen.Fromm -Skilled nursing facilities end-of-Life Privacy.-ASY.MEMBER SALAS-AB 1142**

Would require all skilled nursing facilities in the state to provide a private room or at a minimum a room designated as hospice- **AMENDED, REREFERRED TO APPROP. COMMITTEE.**

###### **SP-2 Sr. Senator Fromm- IHSS Criminal Background Checks. Assemblymember Cook,**

**AB 459-** Authorities to obtain criminal background checks and subsequent arrest notification for non-IHSS providers. **HEARING CANCELLED-REQUESTED BY AUTHOR-BILL IS NOW SB 692.**

###### **SP-3 Sr. Senator Goldman – Senior Citizens I.D. Cards. –ASSEMBLYMEMBER KREKORIAN.**

Proposal requires the DMV to notify seniors who choose not to renew driver's licenses that a senior **AB 966** -citizen ID card is available free of charge.- **REREFERRED TO APPROPRIATIONS COMM.**

**SP-4-Sr. Senator Griswold – Property Tax Exemptions.** Proposal increases the homeowner's property tax exemption from \$7,000 to \$27,000 for seniors. **Senator Symth- AB 351 – SENATE REVENUE AND TAX COMMITTEE- ON SUSPENSE- HELD FOR SIMILAR BILL HEARINGS.**

**(OVER)**

**AB1276 ASY.MEMBER KARNETTE-Previous year Sr. Asy.member Gould- Pharmacies: Prescription Containers: Labels REREFERRED TO ASY .BUS. & PROFESSIONAL COMM.**

**NOTE: DELETED CSL PROPOSALS DID NOT HAVE AN AUTHORED BILL.**

**FEDERAL PROPOSALS---NO BILLS AUTHORED**

**CSL SUPPORT**

**AB-267 Assembly Member Calderon—ANNUITY SALES-SENIORS.**

**REREFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON INSURANCE.**

**Assembly Member Jones AB 853 Home care services-Amended Health and Safety Code. -- ASSEMBLY HUMAN SERVICES**

**AB 399-ASSEMBLYMEMBER FEUER/BERG- LONG TERM HEALTH CARE FACILITIES-Bill** requires the department to complete its investigation of the complaint within 40 working day of receipt. **REREFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS, 4/10.**

**AB 495 -ASSEMBLYMEMBER TRAN—TAXATION: HOMEOWNER’S PROPERTY TAX** Bill would increase homeowners’ exemption from \$7,000 to \$25,000; for qualified renters who are 62 year old or older. **-HEARING SET FOR 5/21.**

**SOCIAL SECURITY AND MEDICARE**

**Excerpts from “National Committee to Preserve social Security and Medicare”**

There is much misinformation about Social Security and Medicare. One of the factors straining Medicare is the Bush Administration’s tax breaks for mostly the wealthiest 5% of Americans. It is not the Baby Boomers. Large budget programs, especially Medicare, are target for drastic spending cuts.

President Bush, in his 2008 budget, has proposed **\$252 BILLION** spending cuts over ten years that could result in making fee-for-service Medicare more difficult to find if not unavailable to many seniors.

Since passage of this Administration’s Medicare Modernization Act of 2003, beneficiaries’ out-of-pocket costs have risen sharply every year, and the value of benefits has plummeted. The Medicare Part B premium along has nearly doubled during the Bush Administration.

Billions of Dollars that should have been used to reduce **SENIORS’ COSTS** has been used to subsidize the profit-driven **DRUG AND INSURANCE COMPANIES.**

For the first time in Medicare’s 41-year history, means tested Part B premiums became effective January 1, 2007, and will, over time, convert Medicare from a universal entitlement into an income-based welfare program.

The implementation of means tested Part B premiums pushed Medicare farther down the privatization path, as it pressures so-called “wealthy” seniors—whose premiums are expected to double or triple what other beneficiaries pay – to abandon Medicare.

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