



STATE OF CALIFORNIA
CALIFORNIA SENIOR LEGISLATURE
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PRESS ADVISORY

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

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California Senior Legislature Announces Top Senior Legislative Proposals

The California Senior Legislature (CSL) announced its Top Ten State and Top Four Federal priorities at a news conference at the State Capitol October 23, 2008. Senior Assembly Member Lola Young, Chair of the CSL Joint Rules Committee and Senior Senator Anne Mack, Chair of the Legislative Committee were on hand to talk about CSL's Top Ten State and Top Four Federal priorities for 2009.

California Senior Legislature Top Priority

SP-22 Senior Senator Eaton: CSL Funding Repeal Date. This proposal would extend the repeal date for contributions to the California Fund for Senior Citizens.

Top Ten State Legislative Proposals

AP-3 Senior Assembly Member Krohn: Sunset Date for Financial Elder Abuse Reporting. This proposal removes the repeal date of the Financial Elder Abuse Reporting Act.

AP-7 Senior Assembly Member Lucero: Hearing Aid Availability and Cost. This 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 Senior Assembly Member Lucero: Pharmaceutical Expiration Date. This proposal requires pharmaceutical manufacturers to include a "best before" date on packaging.

Mission: To Improve the Quality of Life for Aging Californians

Funded by the California Fund for Senior Citizens – FTB Code 402

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

AP-17 Senior Assembly Member Young: Nursing Home End-of-Life Privacy. This proposal requires nursing homes to provide privacy for a resident who has been diagnosed as terminal.

AP-19 Senior Assembly Member Wolfe: Grading System for Nursing Homes. This proposal establishes a user-friendly compliance grading system for long-term care facilities.

AP-20 Senior Assembly Member Tucker: Medi-Cal Monthly Allowances. This proposal increases the monthly allowance for personal and incidental needs for a Medi-Cal beneficiary.

SP-3 Senior Senator Griswold: Property Tax Exemptions. This proposal increases the homeowner's property tax exemption from \$7,000 to \$27,000 for seniors.

SP-6 Senior Senator Murphy: Silver Alert Program. This proposal establishes a missing persons program called Silver Alert to protect persons suffering from Alzheimer's or dementia who roam away from home.

SP-23 Senior Senator Young: Support for the Ombudsman Program and the Senior Legal Hotline. This 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.

Top Four Federal Legislative Proposals

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

AFP-7 Senior Assembly Member Lopes: Medical Expense Tax Deductions. This proposal allows persons 65 and older to fully deduct all medical expenses.

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

SFP-4 Senior Senator Cox: Medicare Coverage of Dental Care. This proposal expands Medicare coverage to include dental care and dental plates.

Second Top Ten State Legislative Proposals

AP-6 Senior Assembly Member Lucero: Food Safety Labels. This 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 Senior Assembly Member Loh: SSI/SSP Yearly Adjustments. This proposal requires consideration of UCLA's Elder Standard Index to guide the yearly adjustment of SSI/SSP benefits.

AP-12 Senior Assembly Member Gerbracht: Sexual Abuse or Touching of Elders. This proposal adds infliction of unjustifiable sexual abuse or touching to the list of crimes against elders.

AP-14 Senior Assembly Member Bloch: Disaster Emergency Transportation for Elders and Disabled. This 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 Senior Assembly Member Sorensen: Convalescent Care Facility Personal Equipment ID. This proposal requires convalescent care facilities to permanently identify patient's personal equipment.

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

SP-1 Senior Senator Faustman: Universal Health Care. This 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 Senior Senator Lundin: Long-Term Care Facility Security. This proposal increases security and surveillance at all long-term care facilities and provides security training.

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

SP-19 Senior Senator Orange: Prescription Medication Labels. This proposal requires doctors to inform pharmacies of the purpose of prescriptions and the pharmacy to list the information on the label.

Second Top Four Federal Legislative Proposals

AFP-2 Senior Assembly Member Weintraub: Nursing Home Ownership

Disclosure. This proposal requires private investment groups who own more than five nursing homes to disclose information related to operational ownership.

AFP-3 Senior Assembly Member Young: Federal Poverty Guidelines. This proposal requires the re-evaluation and adjustment of the federal poverty guidelines to more accurately reflect senior's basic cost of living.

AFP-5 Senior Assembly Member Godager: Durable Social Security Cards. This proposal requires that Social Security cards be made of more durable material and redesigned.

SFP-6 Senior Senator Sorensen: Unsolicited Blank Checks. This proposal requires the regulation of the distribution of blank checks with personal identification placing the recipient at risk identity and money theft.