



**Senior Advocates Coalition**  
**Muskegon, Ottawa & Oceana Counties**

**MEMORANDUM**

**To:** Senior Advocates Coalition  
**From:** Pam Curtis, Facilitator  
**Date:** September 3, 2019  
**Re:** September 9, 2019 Senior Advocates Meeting

## Meeting Reminder

The next meeting of the Senior Advocates Coalition for Muskegon, Ottawa, and Oceana counties will be held:

**Monday, September 9, 2019**  
**1:30 – 3:00 p.m.**  
**Senior Resources at Tanglewood Park**  
**560 Seminole Road – Norton Shores**  
**Board/Training Room**

We will be receiving Federal and State updates

### AGENDA

- 1) **Introductions/Announcements** –
- 2) **Update on the Age-Friendly Communities Act** –  
**Annie Brown, West Michigan Regional Coordinator for U.S. Senator Gary Peters**  
Last spring Senator Peters introduced the Age-Friendly Communities Act. Since then, there have been edits and changes and an increased interest across the country. Ms. Brown will update us on the Act, what has changed and where things stand today.
- 3) **Federal Legislative Updates** – Members of Congress were in their districts and states for the August recess and return to Washington DC in September to tackle decisions about federal funding for FY 2020. The Bipartisan Budget Agreement that increased overall federal budget caps for FY 2020 and FY 2021 sets the stage for lawmakers to finalize spending decisions by the end of September when current FY 2019 funding expires.

In order to finalize all FY 2020 discretionary funding bills, including those for Older Americans Act and other critical aging programs, the House and the Senate will need to agree on funding levels for thousands of individual programs.

The good news is that earlier this summer the House passed significant increases for Older Americans Act programs and other important federal aging programs. *This means advocates need to encourage Senate appropriators to adopt the House-passed increases for critical aging supports!* It's vital that advocates connect with federal lawmakers NOW about the importance of adopting funding increases for Older Americans Act (OAA) and other aging programs.

a) **United States House of Representatives**

i) Sarah Lisman, District Program Coordinator/Caseworker for Congressman Bill Huizenga

b) **United States Senate**

i) Mary Judnich, West Michigan Office Manager for Senator Debbie Stabenow

**4) State Legislative Updates** - State legislators are just returning to Lansing after spending time with constituents this summer in their districts. The first order of business will be to work on a road package and budget for FY2020, which begins on October 1<sup>st</sup>.

a) **Michigan State Senate**

i) Senator Jon Bumstead (invited)

b) **Michigan House of Representatives**

i) Representative Jim Lilly (invited)

ii) Representative Terry Sabo

**5) Other Updates from the Group (as time allows)**

**6) If time allows:**

a) **What would people like to see from this group?**

b) **How often should we be meeting? Now = ~ 6 x per year, quarterly?**

c) **Move locations?**

d) **Should we develop a planning committee?**

e) **Do you prefer the learning format or would you like more advocacy related activities? Letter writing, calling, office visits, etc.**

f) **How do we attract more people? Especially older adults.**

Our next regular meeting will be **Monday, October 14th**