



**AREA AGENCIES ON AGING ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN
ADVOCACY ALERT
October 7, 2009**

**ASK THE GOVERNOR TO VETO CUTS TO SENIOR
PROGRAMS!**

BACKGROUND:

Programs funded by the Office of Services to the Aging (OSA), including meals, home care, caregiver services and volunteer programs, have been singled out for large cuts for fiscal year 2010.

Last February, the Governor recommended an OSA budget with \$2 million in cuts. In April, the House of Representatives passed an OSA budget with no cuts, and in June, the Senate passed an OSA budget with \$2 million in cuts. But in late September, a joint House-Senate Conference Committee approved OSA cuts of over \$5 million – 13% of OSA's total state funding, and more than double the \$2 million recommended by Governor Granholm and the state Senate!

The Senate-passed budget already had enough cuts to meet budget targets. So why was OSA singled out at the last minute and its cuts more than doubled from \$2 million to \$5 million? No answers are forthcoming.

The Governor has indicated a willingness to veto line-items with which she disagrees, forcing the Legislature to revisit them and restore the cuts.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Ask the Governor to veto certain line-items in the OSA budget and force the Legislature to reconsider these draconian cuts made at the last minute. These OSA line-items should be vetoed:

- Community Services (home care, care management, caregiver services, etc.)
- Nutrition Services (meals at centers and home-delivered meals)
- Foster Grandparents
- Senior Companions
- Retired Senior Volunteer Program
- Respite Care (adult day care, in-home respite)

Messages can be sent to the Governor through her website at www.michigan.gov/gov, by clicking on "Contact the Governor." Written messages can be sent to:

The Honorable Jennifer Granholm
State Capitol
P.O. Box 30013
Lansing, Michigan 48909

6105 W. St. Joseph, Suite 204, Lansing, MI 48917 (517) 886-1029 www.mi-seniors.net

Here are some talking points:

- \$5 million in cuts will deny services to 6,000 older Michigianians; OSA was already cut \$2 million this year hurting thousands of vulnerable older adults.
- Helping seniors with home-based services is cost-effective and saves the state from spending more money on nursing homes
- There are 4,400 people on waiting lists for OSA services to stay independent. OSA services need more funds, not less.