



AARP Florida 2013 Legislative Focus

Florida Budget/Health and Long-Term Care

AARP will advocate:

- To properly fund Medicaid (medical care for low-income and disabled persons), including funds for state optional services, e.g. hospice care and vision, hearing and dental services. AARP will continue to participate in the debate on the evolution of Medicaid reform.
- To properly fund state general revenue long-term care and aging programs (e.g., Community Care for the Elderly, Older Americans Act programs and ADRCs).
- To enhance nursing staffing levels in nursing homes.
- To increase the safety of Assisted Living Facility residents through increased training and credentialing for ALF staff and administrators and for enhanced regulatory authority over ALF operations.
- To better balance allocation of resources dedicated to home-and-community based long-term care services (HCBS) vs. services within institutions.

Florida has a constitutional requirement to balance its annual budget. Increasing demand and need for state services warrants further action by the Legislature to provide Florida an adequate, but affordable, revenue stream to fund services. AARP will join again with the state's business community to support collection of taxes on Internet and other forms of remote retail transactions.

Consumer Protections

AARP will advocate:

- To strengthen regulation of assisted living facilities (ALFs) in order to optimize quality long-term care in those facilities and to reduce adverse incidents in them. AARP will oppose any diminishment of authority for the Ombudsman program.
- To safeguard affordable utility rates and service for ratepayers. AARP Florida will encourage the development of a state energy policy that promotes enhanced efficiency and renewable energy that is fair and cost-efficient for consumers. AARP will seek legislative reconsideration of Florida's Advance Nuclear Cost Recovery statute.
- To strengthen consumer protections against perpetrators of fraud/scam artists, particularly those who target older Floridians.
- To increase safety on Florida's public byways through education about the dangers of distracted driving, particularly texting while driving, and to institute a ban on texting while operating a motor vehicle.
- To dedicate Affordable Housing trust funds to their intended purpose.