



**AREA AGENCIES ON AGING ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN
ADVOCACY ALERT
May 6, 2011**

**SPEAK OUT AGAINST MORE CUTS IN OSA AGING
SERVICES!!!**

BACKGROUND:

Will the cuts ever end??? From 2009 – 2011, programs funded by the Office of Services to the Aging (OSA) were cut by \$10 million (28%), and even more cuts are proposed for next year!

The Governor recommended another \$2.2 million in OSA cuts, coming from meals (\$800,000), community services (\$1 million) and volunteer programs (\$400,000).

The Senate has approved an OSA budget with no cuts in senior meals, keeping the cuts in community services, and increasing the cuts in volunteer programs to \$670,000. The House has approved a very different version that increased cuts in senior meals (\$1.6 million) and community services (\$1.8 million), and totally eliminated funding for three senior volunteer programs – RSVP, Foster Grandparents and Senior Companions (\$4.4 million total).

The next step is a joint House-Senate Conference Committee that will work out the differences.

WHAT YOU CAN DO:

Send messages to the following, who are likely members of the conference committee, **asking that OSA cuts in aging programs be restored.**

Sen. Roger Kahn	senrkahn@senate.michigan.gov	(866) 305-2132
Sen. John Moolenaar	senjmoolenaar@senate.michigan.gov	(517) 373-7946
Sen. Vince Gregory	senvgregory@senate.michigan.gov	(517) 373-7888
Rep. Chuck Moss	chuckmoss@house.mi.gov	(877) 707-6677
Rep. Matt Lori	mattlori@house.mi.gov	(877) 262-5959
Rep. Rashida Tlaib	rashidatlaib@house.mi.gov	(877) 852-4212

Here are more talking points you can use:

- OSA services prevent seniors from going on Medicaid.
- OSA services are extremely cost-effective. The average annual cost of OSA services (meals-on-wheels and home care) was \$1,000 in FY 2010. In contrast, a nursing home cost an average of \$68,000.
- There are over 6,000 seniors on waiting lists for OSA services like meals and home care.