

PLEASE FORWARD THIS TO OTHER NEW YORK STATE AGING ADVOCATES.

REQUESTED ACTION: Please join the New York State Office for the Aging (NYSOFA) in advocating that the reauthorization of the Older Americans retain the current funding formula for Title III programs.

It is extremely important that you contact Senators Charles E. Schumer and Hillary Rodham Clinton as well as the leadership of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP) Committee (Senators Michael Enzi {R-WY} and Edward Kennedy {D-MA} and the leadership of the Senate Subcommittee on Retirement Security and Aging (Senators Mike DeWine {R-OH} and Barbara Mikulski {D-MD}) to voice your concern for the impact of formula changes on programs and services for older New Yorkers. The phone and fax numbers of the senators are attached for your information and use. Please note that letters should be faxed and not mailed due to delays for anthrax screening. E-mailed messages are also problematic due to the large volume of e-mail sent to each senator. Faxing a letter or calling Senators Schumer and Clinton are the best available advocacy strategy.

Since the Senate reconvenes on July 10, it is important to contact Senator Schumer and Clinton as well as the HELP Committee and subcommittee members during the July 4th recess.

BACKGROUND: On June 28, 2006, the Senate HELP Committee completed its mark up of the "Older Americans Act Amendments of 2006" (**S.3570**). The bill was unanimously approved by the Committee by voice vote. The next step is taking the bill to the Senate floor.

INTERSTATE FUNDING FORMULA (IFF) ISSUE - While the bill has cleared the HELP Committee, the issue of the IFF for Title III programs needs to be resolved. Senator Jeff Bingaman (D-NM) was persuaded by the bipartisan leadership of the Committee to withdraw amendments that would change the Title III IFF. The Committee members voiced a desire to "make it fair" and acknowledged the concerns of "high growth states" for the future distribution of funds. There is an agreement by Committee members to "resolve" the formula issue "before it goes to the Senate floor."

The sponsors of three amendments -- Senators Bingaman and Patty Murray (D-WA) -- were the most opposed to what is now being called the "guarantee growth" (GG) provision that guarantees all states some new money when there is a funding increase above the hold harmless (HH) which is now the FFY 2000 funding year. To ensure the votes of 12 small states that receive minimum base allotments, both Senators Bingaman and Murray had proposed amendments that would increase the minimum from ½ to ¾ of one percent, a 50 percent increase in their funding levels. Two members of the HELP Committee, the Chair - Michael Enzi (R-WY) and James Jeffords (I-VT), represent small states receiving the minimum allotments.

CURRENT IFF - Based on current law, funding for all Title III programs, except Title III-E - Family Caregiver Support Program, is allocated first based on current population figures, applying a FFY 2000 funding hold harmless and then allocating new appropriations such that no state would receive less than 20 percent of the percentage increase above the fiscal year 2000 allotment for all states. An example of how this would work was provided by the U. S. General Accounting Office (GAO) in 2000 using an estimated increase of \$50 million. Based on the GAO formula run, New York State would receive \$849,000 or 1.7 percent of the new money. At the same time, other states that had experienced faster growth in their aged 60-plus population would receive larger increases, (i.e., FL - \$8,967,000/17.9 percent; CA - \$6,768,000/13.5 percent; TX - \$5,418,000/10.8 percent; AZ - \$3,595,000/7.2 percent.)

WINNERS AND LOSERS: Based on the analysis of the Congressional Research Services, there are two Title III programs with inequities in funding: Title III – B, Supportive Services and Senior Centers, and Title III-C-1, Congregate Meals. While Title III-C-2, Home Delivered Meals was not at equity in 2000, it is now allocated based on the current age 60+ population.

SUPPORTIVE SERVICES - For the Supportive Services and Senior Centers program, there are 17 high growth states that are “harmed” by the HH and GG provisions. They include: AZ, CA, CO, FL, GA, MD, MN, NV, NM, NC, OR, SC, TX, TN, UT, VA and WA. In addition, there are 6 low growth states “harmed” by the HH and GG provisions. They include: AL, IN, KY, LA, MI and WI.

By contrast, there are 8 low growth states “benefiting” from the HH and GG provisions. They include: IL, IA, KS, MA, NE, **NY**, PA and WV. There are 7 low growth states benefiting from just the GG provision. They include: AR, CN, MS, MO, NJ, OH and OK.

In addition, there are 12 states that benefit from a minimum base allotment. They include: AK, DE, HI, ID, ME, MT, NH, ND, RI, SD, VT and WY.

Based on congressional staff analysis, the overall inequity between high and low growth states caused by the HH provision is a -6.8 percent for high growth states, but that increases to a disparity of -10.9 percent when the GG provision is added. By contrast, low growth states are benefited by +10.9 percent. The gains and losses vary by state.

CONGREGATE MEALS - The inequity in the Congregate Meals programs is even more dramatic. There are 16 high growth states that are “harmed” by the HH and GG provisions. They include: AZ, CA, CO, FL, GA, MD, NV, NM, NC, OR, SC, TN, TX, UT, VA and WA.

By contrast, there is one high growth state (MN) helped by the HH and GG provisions. However, there are 21 low growth states helped by the combined HH and GG

provisions. They are: AL, AR, CN, IL, IN, IA, KS, KY, LA, MA, MI, MS, MO, NE, NJ, **NY**, OH, OK, PA, WV and WI.

As under Supportive Services, there are 12 states that receive a minimum allotment.

As in the Supportive Services program, the impact of the HH and GG provisions on low growth states is a loss of 24.2 percent with a corresponding gain of 24.2 percent for high growth states. The gains and losses vary by state.

RECOMMENDATION: Based on available information, it is obvious that the best option for New York at this time would be to retain the provisions of CURRENT LAW for the Title III IFF.

A proposal to provide only a 2006 hold harmless would be less beneficial to New York State. While it would at least maintain current funding levels, it would result in a “freeze” on appropriations under Title III since the guaranteed growth factor would be eliminated. New York would not receive increase in Supportive Services and Congregate Meals funding until it reached “parity” in per capita funding with all states. The aggregate difference in funding between 2000 and 2006 is a total of \$704,072. By program, New York received \$579,611 more in Congregate Meals funding in 2006 than in 2000. For Supportive Services, the difference is \$124,461. For both programs, New York benefits from using a 2006 hold harmless.

New York must strongly oppose the loss of both the HH and GG provisions. This would result in a dramatic loss of funding for both Supportive Services and Congregate Meals. Currently, New York is 6.6 percent (or \$1.6 million) above parity for Supportive Services and 15.8 percent (or \$4.6 million) for Congregate Meals. Losses of this magnitude would be extremely detrimental to the New York State Aging Network.

Thank you for your continued advocacy on behalf of New York State’s senior citizens.

If you have any questions, please contact Sandy Longworth by e-mail at sandy.longworth@ofa.state.ny.us or by phone at 518-474-0529.

When writing to members of Congress, do not use room or building. These addresses are provided in the event you are visiting a member's office in Washington, DC. The correct forms for writing to a member of the Senate or House of Representatives are:

**Honorable (Name of Senator)
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510**

**MAILING ADDRESSES
NEW YORK SENATORS**

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SH-313 Hart Senate Office Building
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Ph. (202) 224-6542 **FAX:** (202) 228-3027
Web Form: <http://schumer.senate.gov/webform.html>
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Ph. (518) 431-4070 **FAX:** (518) 431-4076

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13901
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Hillary Rodham Clinton (D)

SR-476 Russell Senate Office Building
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Web From: http://clinton.senate.gov/email_form.html

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North Country: P.O. Box 273, Lowville, NY 13367

Ph. (315) 376-6118 **FAX:** (315) 376-6221

Putnam and Rockland Counties: P.O. Box 47, Nyack, NY 10960

Ph. (845) 613-0076 **FAX:** (845) 613-0100

Rochester: Kenneth B. Keating Federal Office Bldg., 100 State St., Rm. 3280,
Rochester, NY 14614

Ph. (585) 263-6250 **FAX:** (585) 263-6247

Syracuse: James M. Hanley Federal Bldg., 100 South Clinton Street,
P.O. Box 7378, Syracuse, NY 13261-7378

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Westchester: P.O. Box 617, Hartsdale, NY 10530

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SENATE HELP COMMITTEE

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