



Statewide Caregiver Call - Advocacy Update August 24, 2021

State Legislation – Election/Voting Bills

Voting/elections

The following elections bills opposed by GWAAR were passed by the legislature and sent to Governor Evers on Aug. 5. At a press conference on 8/10/21, Governor Evers vetoed these bills along with two other election bills.

Proposal: [SB203 \(-1537\)](#) [View Bill History](#)
relating to: the secure delivery of absentee ballots and providing a penalty.

Proposal: [SB204 \(-2032\)](#) [View Bill History](#)
relating to: absentee ballot applications, unsolicited mailing or transmission of absentee ballot applications and absentee ballots, canvassing absentee ballots, electronic voter registration, and providing a penalty.

Proposal: [SB205 \(-1935\)](#) [View Bill History](#)
relating to: absentee voting in certain residential care facilities and retirement homes and providing a penalty.

Proposal: [SB212 \(-2033\)](#) [View Bill History](#)
relating to: defects on absentee ballot certificates, certain kinds of election fraud, and providing a penalty.

Elder Abuse

On Aug. 5, the legislature also sent SB 17, one of the elder abuse bills GWAAR is supporting, to the Governor's desk. SB 17 was signed into law by the Governor on 8/06/21 and is now 2021 Wisconsin Act 76.

Proposal: [SB17 \(-0712\)](#) [View Bill History](#)
relating to: increased penalties for crimes against elder persons; restraining orders for elder persons; freezing assets of a defendant charged with financial exploitation of an elder person; sexual assault of an elder person; physical abuse of an elder person; and providing a penalty.

See attached GWAAR-WAAN State Legislation Tracking-8-10-21 for updates on other state legislation GWAAR is monitoring.

Federal Legislation

Care Infrastructure Package

The House is expected to reconvene this week to pass a \$3.5 trillion budget resolution that mirrors the Senate's bill (passed on 8/10) in an effort to advance the Biden administration's massive care infrastructure package.

The budget resolution includes the following provisions (and more): expanding paid family and medical leave, making childcare more accessible, creating universal pre-K and tuition-free community college, and extending enhanced household tax credits passed during the coronavirus pandemic. It also recommends lowering the Medicare eligibility age and expanding benefits to include dental, vision and hearing.

FY 2022 Budget

The annual appropriations process is in full swing. If the House passes the budget resolution (noted above) the House and Senate Appropriations Subcommittees will need to create legislation within the spending limits set in the budget resolution to determine exact funding for Older Americans Act and other critical aging service programs for FY 2022. The Subcommittees must submit their bills by Sept. 15, so advocacy is needed now to ensure these programs receive the funding they need.

Calls to Wisconsin's U.S. Senators Tammy Baldwin and Ron Johnson and your U.S. Representative are needed ASAP to let them know:

- You appreciate the significant COVID-relief funding received over the past year.
- The need for Older Americans Act (OAA) and other aging services has expanded in your community during the pandemic and the needs are not expected to decline as you continue to help current and new program participants to age with health and independence in their homes and in their communities.
- Bold funding proposals (House-approved increases) are needed to create a new baseline to ensure the OAA and other aging services can meet ongoing needs.

Let your federal legislators know what increased funding means for the older adults and caregivers in your community/Tribe.

Specific Older Americans Act advocacy includes doubling the funding for Title III B (Supportive Services), Title VI (Native American aging programs), and III D (evidence-based health and wellness) and increasing III E (National Family Caregiver Support Program) by 50%.

Contact information for Wisconsin's congressional delegation can be found at: [Wisconsin's Members of the 117th Congress](https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2004017) (url: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2004017>)

Contact:

[Janet Zander](#)

Advocacy & Public Policy Coordinator

p. 715-677-6723 | m. 608-228-7253

fb. Facebook.com/WAAN.ACTION | tw. @ZanderWAAN

Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources, Inc.

www.gwaar.org