

Caregiver Support – Statewide Call Advocacy Update 1-28-25

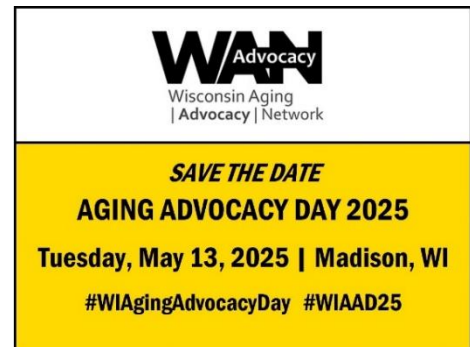
State

Aging Advocacy Day 2025 – Save the Date

Registration opens Mon., March 10, 2025.

Advocacy priorities include Aging & Disability Resource Centers (ADRC) Investments, Direct Care Workforce Supports, Home-Delivered Meal Funding, and Healthy Aging Grants – Falls Prevention.

Find Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN) issue briefs here <https://gwaar.org/waan-issues-and-initiatives>.



State Legislation/Policy Ideas

WAAN is pursuing:

- **Legislation to modernize Wisconsin Alzheimer’s Family and Caregiver Support Program (AFCSP).** Read the issue brief [here](#).
- **Modifications to state law to protect volunteer drivers from** personal auto insurance premium increases or coverage denials solely due to their volunteer driver status. Read the issue brief [here](#).

WAAN is also currently collaborating with advocates on legislation to:

- **Create a state Parkinson’s Disease Registry.** For more information see the [Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson’s Research](#).
- **Expand online Department of Motor Vehicle (DMV) information to include an option to provide caregiver/caretaker information to the electronic record** of anyone applying for a driver’s license, learner’s permit, or state ID. During the last state legislative session, a law passed giving Wisconsin residents the option to add one emergency contact to their record. To date, almost 60,000 applicants have provided emergency contact information that is part of their Wisconsin electronic driver’s license record. See the caretaker section of the [Sec. 171.12 Minnesota State Statutes](#).



Federal

For **contact information** for Wisconsin's Members of Congress see [119th Congress: Wisconsin Congressional Delegation](#).

Older Americans Act (OAA) – Appropriations & Reauthorization

Congress Failed to Include Older Americans Act Reauthorization in the Stop Gap Funding Bill

Near the end of 2024, President Biden signed into law [H.R. 10545 the American Relief Act](#) to prevent a shutdown of the federal government. This short-term funding bill extends FY 2024 appropriation levels through March 14, 2025. Congress passed this stopgap measure late on Dec. 20. The bill passed in the House (366-34) and in the Senate (85-11).

- The CR provided authorization and funding at federal FY 2024 levels for the Older Americans Act programs and the Medicare Improvements and for Patents and Providers Act (MIPPA).
- The reauthorization of the Older Americans Act (OAA) was not included as part of this Continuing Resolution (CR). Congress's failure to pass the bipartisan negotiated OAA reauthorization serves as a sad reminder that the needs of our nation's older adults do not get the attention they need or deserve. As the OAA reauthorization also included the RAISE Family Caregiver updates, these were also not included in the CR.

Final negotiations on the OAA bill were pushed off to members of the new Congress. Relationships with new and returning Members of Congress and their staffers must be formed to ensure older adults are protected and prioritized. Though we had bipartisan support for OAA reauthorization, OAA and other aging services funding is at risk as Members of Congress are discussing funding cuts to include in a budget reconciliation bill to help fund other border and tax cut priorities. Continued advocacy will be needed to break through the noise. Stay tuned, as our national partners will be contacting us in the future to join their advocacy efforts.

Protect Medicaid

See attached "**Action Alert: Medicaid Cuts Will Harm Wisconsinites.**"