

Katie Wendel
Silver Key
Coalition

Area Agency on Aging 1-B:

My name is Katie Wendel and I am the Senior Manager of Advocacy at the Area Agency on Aging 1-B serving six counties in southeast Michigan. Our senior population will grow by more than 60,000 individuals in the next year. Addressing the unmet needs of this population should be a FY 2020 budget priority particularly for the near poor who often have incomes and savings above the poverty level but are not eligible for means tested programs. These seniors face high out-of-pocket health and long-term care costs that make them worse off than those eligible for Medicaid and other public benefits. They are a target population for the Aging and Adult Service Agency programs that the Silver Key Coalition advocates for. The demand for Michigan's Direct Care Workforce is growing faster than we can find workers- investing in this workforce is a critical part of our success.

Our research has shown that we can pay for these services now or pay the price later when the negative outcomes of languishing on wait lists emerge.

Seniors who have limitations in their ability to perform necessary activities of daily living, and who go without needed help because they cannot afford to pay for needed services at private market rates, often deteriorate faster and end up costing more in health and long-term care services. A recent study in southeast Michigan found that those who languished on wait lists and never got help were:

- Five times more likely to enter a nursing home than their counterparts who received services; and
- Less likely to be alive after two years due to a 26% higher mortality rate,
- Family caregivers of those who received services were three times more likely to report their caregiving responsibilities no longer interfere with their ability to work; and
- The number of family caregivers who report their greatest difficulty is the creation of a financial burden was cut in half.

National data shows that 4 of 5 family caregivers report these AASA services delay a forced move of their loved one. Sixty percent of such moves are to a nursing home. It only requires a four-day delay of a forced move to a nursing home before savings to taxpayers are achieved due to the lower cost of AASA services.

Silver Key Coalition members recognize that you have difficult choices to make in this budget process. Please remember that AASA in-home services have proven they reduce nursing home admissions, reduce family caregiver burden, and increase life expectancy of those who are served. We ask for your continued support to meet the unmet needs of our aging population.

Respectfully submitted for your consideration by:



home services that help Michigan's seniors in their own homes and in the communities they call home, for as long as possible.

My colleague Jason will share the specific request of the Silver Key Coalition and Katie will close out our testimony by sharing information about returns on the investment in state in-home services programs.

The Senior Alliance:

Good afternoon, my name is Jason Maciejewski and I am Chief Advocacy & Planning Officer at The Senior Alliance, Area Agency on Aging 1-C, serving over 1 million residents living in the 34 municipalities of western and southern Wayne County.

The Silver Key Coalition was formed in 2014 to advocate for increases in state funding for in-home services supported through the Michigan Aging and Adult Services Agency (AASA). The coalition's goal is to secure state funding to eliminate wait lists for services needed by older adults. We thank the Michigan legislature for appropriating increases in four of the last five years, an amount totaling \$13.6 million over FY 2014 levels.

As a result of those increases, we are serving a half a million more home delivered meals each year to homebound older Michigianians. In FY 2017 the number of seniors waiting for Meals on Wheels was cut in half. However, rising costs, increased demand related to population growth, and many seniors who previously had no hope of getting help due to long wait lists and making their needs known for the first time, have contributed to an increase in the number of individuals on wait lists for other in-home services. By the end of FY 2018, there were 6,294 individuals on AASA in-home service wait lists. 861 (14%) people were waiting for home delivered meals, and 5,433 (86%) were waiting for other in-home services.

We project that addressing these unmet needs and anticipated increases in demand related to senior population growth will necessitate \$7 million in increased funding. Increased state funds allows us to leverage local support and donations from programs participants. For example, in FY 2017 state spending leveraged an additional 19% in local support. With that leveraging in mind, The Silver Key Coalition projects an increase of \$6 million in the Aging & Adult Service Agency (AASA) FY 2020 budget is necessary to meet the needs of Michigan's seniors.

We recommend splitting this increase between Home Delivered Meals and other In-Home Service programs in proportion to the number of older adults on waiting lists for each service. Meaning \$850,000 (14%) would be allocated for Home Delivered Meals in the Nutrition line item of the AASA budget and \$5.15 million (86%) would be for other In-Home Services in the Community Services Line Item of the AASA budget. Funding for these important services are distributed to the 16 Area Agencies on Aging through AASA's statewide funding formula.

Silver Key Coalition members ask for your continued support in addressing the unmet needs of our state's aging population.

Figure 2: 60+ Population by House District

House District	60+ Population	Percentage of Total Population 60+
10	18,891	21.3%
15	15,163	17.4%
33	16,889	18.2%
49	20,251	23.7%
60	14,827	15.6%
69	16,414	17.2%
74	18,358	19.1%
80	21,410	22.8%
84	24,181	28.3%
91	20,627	23.7%
98	20,172	23.4%
104	23,009	25.2%
106	32,897	35.9%

As Area Agencies on Aging, we are federally mandated to advocate on behalf of, and plan services to meet the needs of older adults who call Michigan Home.

We are here today representing the Silver Key Coalition which was founded to advocate for increased state support for non-Medicaid senior in-home services provided through the Aging and Adult Services Agency. This is a priority population for Area Agencies on Aging because the near-poor older adult population, those who have income and savings just above the poverty level often face high out-of-pocket healthcare and long-term care costs that make them worse off financially than those eligible for Medicaid.

At the end of Fiscal Year 2018 there were 6,294 individuals across the state on wait lists for Aging and Adult Services Agency in-home services. These services include personal care, homemaking, and home-delivered meals among others. These services are provided by Michigan's direct care workforce, supporting the work of family caregivers, enable older adults to live in the communities they call home with dignity and independence, they often prevent or delay the need for more costly state funded Medicaid interventions, and these services provide a significant return on investment for each dollar appropriated.

The 100th legislature, the appropriations committees in particular face the daunting task of deciding how to make the best investment of state dollars as possible. With so many important priorities the budget process this year will be challenging but we cannot overlook or forget about Michigan's vulnerable older adults.

We are here today to acknowledge and thank you for the past bi-partisan support of these key services, and to ask for your continued support and investment in Aging and Adult Services Agency in-



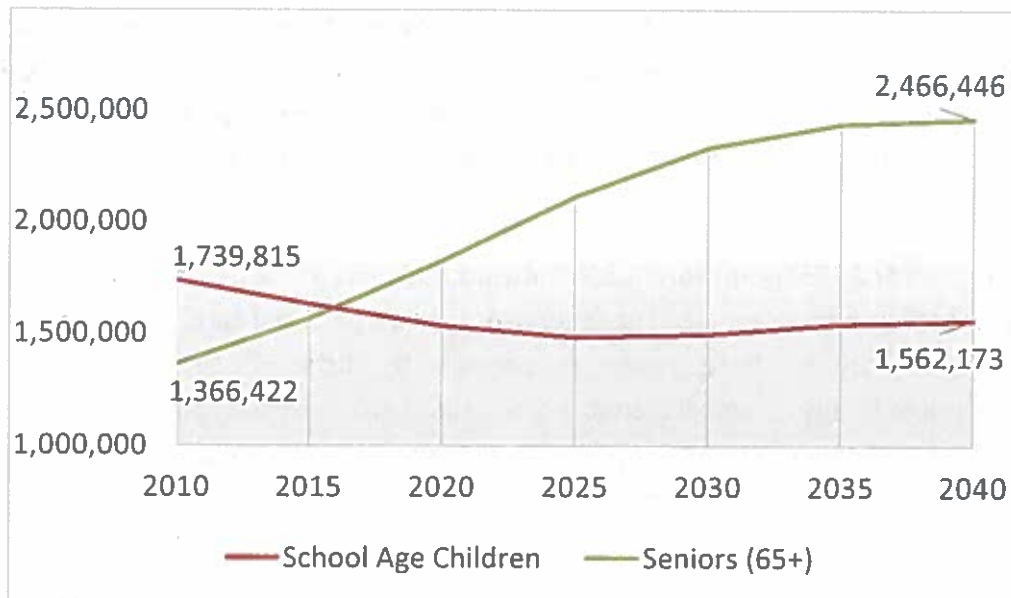
Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan:

The honorable Chairwoman Whiteford and members of the Committee, my name is Lacey Charbaneau and I am the Advocacy Coordinator and Planner at the Area Agency on Aging of Western Michigan. I am here today with Katie Wendel from the Area Agency on Aging 1-B and Jason Maciejewski from The Senior Alliance.

Demographics:

Michigan's aging population is growing rapidly. As of 2017 Michigan ranked 40th among all states from youngest to oldest based upon median age. In 2017 Michigan also crossed an eye-opening threshold – there were, for the first time more older adults age 60+ in Michigan than school aged children (ages 5-18). In fact, there are about 19% more older adults than school aged children. This trend is expected to continue for the foreseeable future. At present, Michigan is home to more than 2.2 million older adults accounting for just over 21% of Michigan's total population.

Figure 1: Michigan's Older Adults will Continue to Outnumber School Aged Children



In just the 13 Districts represented on the House Health and Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee there are more than 263,000 older adults age 60 plus, representing about 12% of Michigan's entire older adult population.

At the end of FY 2018
there were
6,294
seniors on waiting lists
for services.



Silver Key Coalition

Working to Make Michigan a No Wait State for Senior In-Home Services

FY 2020 Budget

Addressing Unmet Needs for Senior In-Home Services

The Silver Key Coalition is requesting a **\$6 million increase** for senior in-home services provided by the Aging and Adult Services Agency (AASA) for FY 2020.

- A \$5.15 million increase for in-home service funding would provide care to **4,947 more seniors** in FY 2020.
- An \$850,000 increase in home delivered meals spending would provide meals to **1,194 more seniors** in FY 2020.

Silver Key Services Help Seniors Stay at Home

A study in southeast Michigan found that those who received services experience positive outcomes when compared to those who remained on waiting lists:



5x less likely to have entered a nursing home



Family caregivers are 3x more likely to report that their caregiving responsibilities **no longer interfere with their ability to work**



The number of family caregivers who report their greatest difficulty is the creation of a **financial burden** was cut in half

If increased appropriations prevent only 80 of the 6,294 seniors from entering a Medicaid Nursing Home for 1 year, the \$6 million investment will pay for itself.

Our Members

AAA of Western MI, AARP of MI, Advocates for Senior Issues, Alzheimer's Association, AAA 1-B, AAA Association of MI, AAA of Northwest Michigan, Community Home Supports, Community Living Services, Detroit AAA 1-A, Disability Network of Michigan, Leading Age, Macomb County Senior Citizen's Services Office, MCAAA, Michigan Adult Day Services Association, MI County Social Service Association, Michigan Directors of Services to the Aging, Michigan, Association of Nutrition and Aging Service Providers (MANASP), Michigan Association for Home Care, MI Association of Community Action Agencies, Michigan Senior Advocates Council, Montcalm County Commission on Aging, NASW-Michigan Chapter, National Multiple Sclerosis Society, MI Chapter, PHI Midwest, Presbyterian Villages of Michigan, Region 2 AAA, Region 3-A AAA, Region 3-B AAA, Region 3-C AAA, Region IV AAA, Region VII AAA, Region 9 AAA, Senior Advisory Council, Oakland County MI, Senior Regional Collaborative, Senior Resources of West MI, Senior Services Midland County Council on Aging, The Senior Alliance, Tri-County Office on Aging, Upper Peninsula Commission for Area Progress (UPCAP), Valley AAA

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