

By: Albert Campbell, Elsie Whiteside, Linda Parrish, Ted Hubert,  
Doris Griffin, Trini Garza, Stephen Coycault, Nancy Byler,  
Barbara Aydlett, Alan Abraham

No. T001

Committee: State Affairs

### **Redistricting Reform Using An Independent Nonpartisan Commission**

A RESOLUTION TO: Establish an independent commission to draw State legislative and congressional districts according to data from the decennial census.

WHEREAS: Current Texas redistricting procedures create districts that dilute the voting strength of language, ethnic and racial minorities, create unnatural and disjointed geographical boundaries, cause extensive delays in primary elections and do not allow representatives to truly represent their constituents; and

WHEREAS: Redistricting at the pleasure of political parties in power institutionalize party-line voting, requires the intervention of courts, ensures that lawmakers will not face accountability, shrinks the political center, makes compromise almost impossible and loses independence of thought and action; and

WHEREAS: Many states have successfully utilized nonpartisan commissions to designate contiguous geographical boundaries based upon equal populations and have eliminated prior voting, registration, ethnic, social, religious and financial data for establishing legislative and congressional districts; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED; That the 17<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature calls upon the 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature to enact redistricting legislation to provide for a constitutional amendment or necessary legislation using an independent nonpartisan commission which allows redistricting to take place in an efficient and timely manner without political gridlock or gerrymandering.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the State Affairs Committee.

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Irma Cauley, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

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Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:

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Mary Collins, Secretary

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PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the State Affairs Committee.

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Irma Cauley, Chairman

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Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:

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Mary Collins, Secretary

Committee: State Affairs

**Prohibit the issue of General Obligation “Re-funding Bonds” for purposes other than re-funding existing general obligation bonds under Texas Constitution and previously authorized**

A RESOLUTION TO: Protect the Property Owners/ Taxpayers from any Government Entity issuing any “Re-funding Bonds” secured by property taxes Without Voter Approval.

WHEREAS, in 2017 the Gainesville Hospital District had a taxpayer/ voter approved bond debt of \$18,246,000. They filed for Chapter Nine Bankruptcy and have issued up to an additional \$34,500,000 plus cost in Re-funding Bond Debt for pension shortfalls, attorney fees and other operational expenses, with a current tax rate of .0614, which will increase our tax liability by up to .4328,(7X), all without taxpayer/voter approval; and

WHEREAS, there are 100 years of Texas court case precedents precluding the issuance of Re-funding Bonds for anything beyond valid indebtedness previously authorized by voters, City of Laredo v. Looney, 185 SW 556, (Tex. 1916); Griffith v. Buchanan, 5 S.W.2d, 211,212 (Tex. Civ. App. - San Antonio 1928); Cameron v. Terrell & Garrett, Inc. 618 S.W. 2d, 535, 540 (Tex. 1981) (citing Eddins-Walcher Butane Co. v. Calvert. 156 Tex. 587, 298 S.W.2d.93, 96 (1957); which the Bankruptcy Court and Attorney General Ken Paxton ignored; and

WHEREAS, no taxing entity shall be allowed to use the Chapter Nine Bankruptcy and the Texas Attorney General’s Office to issue general obligation re-funding bonds for purposes other than what the Texas Constitution allows general obligation bonds to be issued for: which is for capital improvements approved by voters; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 17<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver- Haired Legislature recommends that the 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature protect the Property Owners/ Taxpayers voters rights in Texas by prohibiting the issue of General Obligation “Re-funding Bonds” for purposes other than re-funding existing general obligation bonds that are expressly permitted under our Texas Constitution and were previously authorized by the voters of the government entity.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the State Affairs Committee.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Irma Cauley, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:

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Mary Collins, Secretary

Committee: Criminal Justice

**Impound Vehicles Driven by Uninsured Motorists  
When Stopped for any Law Violation or Accident**

A RESOLUTION TO: Lower the insurance costs and dangers from uninsured drivers by impounding vehicles driven by uninsured drivers.

WHEREAS, Uninsured drivers increase the costs of automobile insurance and often safe drivers, many of them seniors, and individuals on fixed and low incomes are not compensated for personal losses in accidents caused by drivers without insurance. Although ticketed for lack of insurance, many continue to drive. Preliminary, data suggests that uninsured drivers have a higher accident rate than those who are fully insured. When an accident occurs with an uninsured motorist, the insured individual has to pay the deductible and their premiums are usually increased. Thus, those who obey the law are penalized; and

WHEREAS, Several local ordinances require that drivers who are not able to show proof of insurance are immediately impounded and if not retrieved within an appropriate time are sold. In at least one major city in Texas this ordinance has contributed to a significant reduction in accidents.

WHEREAS, Texas has one of the highest auto insurance costs in the Nation. Mandatory insurance laws passed in 1981 were intended to protect policyholders from losses caused by uninsured motorists, however insurance costs have continued to increase. A state initiative to remove uninsured motorists from the streets will contribute to lowering auto insurance premiums; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 17th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature call upon the 86th Texas Legislature to support local governmental entities by passing state-wide legislation that will impound vehicles driven by uninsured motorists when stopped for any law violation or accident.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Criminal Justice Committee.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bill Bailey, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:

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Mary Collins, Secretary

Committee: State Affairs

**Restoration of Gaming Activities on Texas Native American Reservations**

A RESOLUTION TO Provide travel safety and entertainment for Texas seniors, increase state revenue, provide employment, improve reservation economy, and re-establish economic sovereignty of Texas Native Americans.

WHEREAS, In other states Native Americans have improved themselves economically and have reduced unemployment through ownership of casinos; and

WHEREAS, Each year millions of trips are made by Texas Seniors to casinos in Oklahoma, Louisiana and New Mexico for the purpose of patronizing casinos, and most of the casinos are owned by American Indian Nations. Long distance travel is expensive and presents safety problems for seniors. Well regulated casinos in Texas improve safety and entertainment for seniors while increasing tourism and provide additional revenue for the State, and

WHEREAS, Texas seniors, Native Americans, and the State of Texas will all benefit when Texas laws are changed to allow gaming activities on reservations; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the Texas 17<sup>th</sup> Silver-Haired Legislature that the 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature authorize a Constitutional vote allowing American Indian Tribes to sponsor gaming activities on reservations.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the State Affairs Committee.

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Irma Cauley, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:

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Mary Collins, Secretary

Committee: Retirement & Aging

**Specific training and certification for providers of pedicure and manicure services for diabetics**

A RESOLUTION TO: Require cosmetologists and health care providers who treat senior diabetic patients, particularly those who provide pedicure and manicure services, to have special training and certification related to diabetic safety issues.

WHEREAS, Diabetic patients are more likely to be infected and healing is more difficult for these individuals. Thus, cosmetologists and providers of pedicure and manicure services need special training; and

WHEREAS, Infections and unnecessary difficult healing often results in diabetic patients due to inadequate sterilizing, inappropriate instruments and techniques by cosmetologists and health care providers who are not trained and certified in the special treatment of patients with diabetes; and

WHEREAS, Diabetics in long-term care facilities are especially vulnerable to cosmetic infections due to impaired activity and other factors associated with institutional care; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 17<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature recommends that the 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature pass legislation that will recognize the special needs of seniors with diabetes by requiring cosmetologists and health care providers who provide pedicure and manicure services to have specific training and certification.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Retirement & Aging Committee.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Don Murphy, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

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Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:

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Mary Collins, Secretary

Committee: Retirement & Aging

**Limit Bank Overdraft Fees for low Income Seniors**

A RESOLUTION TO: Limit bank overdraft fees for low income senior depositors.

WHEREAS, Seniors are advised and often required to establish bank accounts for security purposes and many banks attract additional deposits by charging no monthly fees; and

WHEREAS, Social Security benefit arrival dates are not reliable which often causes bank overdrafts for individuals with little financial margin and multiple overdraft fees prohibit life sustaining purchases of food and drugs; and

WHEREAS, Seniors depend upon fixed income, often limited to Social Security benefits, resulting in marginal financial security which is aggravated by bank overdraft fees; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the 17<sup>th</sup> Silver-Haired Legislature recommend that the 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature require banks to provide overdraft protection to all seniors 70 or over to protect their financial security.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Retirement & Aging Committee.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Don Murphy, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

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Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:

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Mary Collins, Secretary

Committee: Retirement & Aging

**Require headlight adjustment to be made in state inspections**

A RESOLUTION TO: Require that headlights on licensed vehicles be properly adjusted to manufacturer's standards.

WHEREAS: Many drivers including seniors have difficulty driving at night because of poorly adjusted headlights which often result in crashes and prevents drivers from driving during dark hours; and

WHEREAS: Many worthwhile activities including those that are church related are scheduled during the evening hours and many drivers including seniors are unable to participate due to headlights that are blinding; and

WHEREAS: Licensed vehicles in Texas are required to pass safety inspections which do not include headlight adjustments which results in un-safe conditions for other drivers especially seniors who often have various eyesight problems which are increased by glaring mal-adjusted headlights; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the 17<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature requests the 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature to require headlight adjustment be included in State safety inspections and that there not be any additional charge when adjustments are required.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Retirement & Aging Committee.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Don Murphy, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:

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Mary Collins, Secretary



Committee: Criminal Justice

**Protect Seniors from Gang and Criminal Combinations  
By Changing the Texas Penal Code**

A RESOLUTION TO: Legally limit the ability of street gang and organized crime from using superior numbers as weapons to intimidate seniors and other law abiding citizens while committing crimes.

WHEREAS: The Texas Penal Code does not currently provide for criminal responsibility to attach to individuals involved in crime as a group unless the members of the group take some kind of affirmative action in furtherance of the crime. [PC sec. 702 (a) (2)]; and

WHEREAS: Superior numbers by gang members are often used as a weapon to intimidate law abiding citizens; and

WHEREAS: Membership ,in street gang and organized crime groups can be deterred by making those who fail to make an effort to prevent an offense be legally liable; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED; That the 17<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature to modify Title 2, Chapter 7 of the Texas Penal Code to require all individual members of groups involved in criminal activity take affirmative actions to prevent crimes or all involved will be accountable for their involvement.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Criminal Justice Committee.

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Bill Bailey, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

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Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:

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Mary Collins, Secretary

Committee: Retirement & Aging

**Levy Special Tax On Soft Drinks**

A RESOLUTION TO: Reduce senior obesity and health related problems, help to balance the State budget and provide special funds for obesity, diabetes and related health and longevity programs.

WHEREAS: Soft drinks have been identified as a major contributor to senior obesity and related health problems. Obesity affects over ½ of all Americans costing billions of dollars in health care, causing additional visits to hospitals and emergency rooms, school and work related absences and increases the need for long-term custodial care; and

WHEREAS: Soft drinks are identified as non-alcoholic beverages that contain natural or artificial sweeteners and have less than 50% vegetable or fruit juice by volume; and

WHEREAS: Taxation of soft drinks in other states has shown to reduce consumption and raise revenue; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the 17<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature advises the 86th Texas Legislature to levy special taxes on soft drinks taking into consideration successful models from other states and one half of the proceeds be allocated directly to obesity, diabetes and related health and longevity programs.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Retirement & Aging Committee.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Don Murphy, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:

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Mary Collins, Secretary



Committee: State Affairs

### **Local Option Elections To Authorize Casinos**

A RESOLUTION to resolve the much-debated but not yet resolved issue of gambling casinos in Texas by allowing Texas voters to authorize local-option elections, in which the voters of a State Senator District could decide for themselves whether casinos should be allowed to operate in and around their own communities.

WHEREAS, many citizens in Texas may reject casinos in their own communities while being willing to allow citizens in other parts of the state to decide for themselves whether to allow casinos in their own communities, and

WHEREAS, Each year Texas citizens travel frequently to Louisiana, Oklahoma and other neighboring states to patronize casinos; resulting in a huge and growing amount of Texas money flowing to those states, with a corresponding loss of revenue to Texas that could be used to greatly benefit the economy of the state and of local areas, and

WHEREAS, By authorizing local elections in State Senator Districts, the voters in those districts could decide for themselves whether the added revenue and jobs generated by allowing casinos to operate in their local communities would outweigh negative aspects of those casinos in their area; now therefore be it

RESOLVED: That the 17<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature to allow Texas voters to decide in a state-wide election whether to authorize local option elections to allow casinos to operate in those local areas.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the State Affairs Committee.

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Irma Cauley, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

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Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:

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Mary Collins, Secretary

Committee: Health & Human Resources

**Require In-Patient Rehabilitation Facilities To Provide Services For 7 Days Each Week Or Reduce Charges**

A RESOLUTION TO: Provide more effective and efficient rehabilitation practices and procedures at lower costs and accomplish intended outcomes in less time,

WHEREAS, In-patient rehabilitation services are financed by Medicare, Medicaid, private insurance and private pay sources and are generally prescribed by physicians with expected outcomes under specific time limitations; and

WHEREAS, Physical, speech, occupational and other therapies are prescribed with specific outcomes, and are expected to be accomplished by funding sources and patient expectations in the most effective and efficient manner in as short a time as possible ;

WHEREAS, Current practices of in-patient facilities provide rehabilitative therapies for 5 days per week with two days, usually weekends, without services while charging funding sources for 7 days of therapy; now therefore be it

RESOLVED By the 17<sup>th</sup> Silver-Haired Legislature that the 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature provide legislation that requires in-patient rehabilitation facilities to provide patient rehabilitative services for 7 days each week or make a substantial rate reduction for the two days where no services are provided.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Health & Human Resources Committee.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sue Wilson, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:

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Mary Collins, Secretary

By: Scott Christensen, Nancy Byler, Sherry Hubbard,  
Irene Andrews, Laura Borchardt, and Paul Stempko

No. T012

Committee: Education

**Increase and Maintain the financial strength of the Teacher Retirement System (TRS) Defined-Benefit (DB) Pension Plan**

A RESOLUTION TO Increase and Maintain the financial strength of the TRS Defined-Benefit (DB) Pension Plan to maintain its commitment to all TRS members through an increase to the level of State funding on parity with TRS Employee funding.

WHEREAS, the TRS Pension Plan must maintain long-term financial strength to meet its obligations to 1.5 million active employees, inactive members, and existing retirees (5.5 % of the Texas population); and, TRS is funded by an active TRS member contribution rate of 7.7% of payroll, a State of Texas contribution rate of 6.8% of payroll, a non-Social Security School District contribution rate of 1.5% of district “minimum” payroll, plus earnings on investments of the TRS pension trust fund; and

WHEREAS, the reform efforts of 2013 (SB 1458) shifted most of the burden to (1) TRS covered active employees (through added requirements for “full retirement annuity” for new employees and an increase in active-employee contributions from 6.4% to 7.7% of salary) and (2) To non-Social Security TRS employers by requiring a new contribution of 1.5% of each non-covered employee’s minimum scheduled salary. Additionally, the most recent nine years of retirees, at that time, were excluded from the ad hoc COLA granted due to the marginal actuarial status of the TRS pension trust fund at that time; and

WHEREAS, the Plan, at FYE 2017, exceeded the minimum funded ratio standard and is very close to the funding period standard of the unfunded actuarial accrued liability/UAAL (and improving). The pension fund is essentially healthy, but on the margin – not as sound or strong as it has been, or needs to be going forward; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the 17<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature strongly urges the 86<sup>th</sup> Texas State Legislature to enact legislation that will increase and maintain financial strength of the TRS DB Pension Plan by Increasing the State of Texas contribution rate of 6.8% to at least equal 7.7% (on parity with the active member contribution rate) or greater if needed to maintain an actuarially sound plan.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Education Committee.

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Trini Garza, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

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Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:

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Mary Collins, Secretary

Committee: Education

**Reject Conversion of TRS Pension from Defined Benefit (DB) to Defined Contribution (DC) Plan**

A RESOLUTION TO Reject any, and all, proposed legislation to convert the TRS Defined-Benefit (DB) Pension Plan to a Defined-Contribution (DC) Plan.

WHEREAS, the TRS DB Plan is a reasonable/secure method for TRS retirees to receive a monthly lifetime annuity payment; as of 2017, the Plan exceeds its funded ratio standard and is close to its funding period standard (and improving); and, TRS was in the top 1/3 of 170 public sector plans nationally in funded ratio for 2016. It is NOT in immediate danger; and

WHEREAS, conversion of the DB Plan to a DC Plan for new employees would be very costly up front, create funding challenges, and create the cost to manage two systems; specifically:

- There would be an immediate addition to the DB unfunded actuarial accrued liability (UAAL), estimated at almost \$12 billion in 2012, making the Plan unsound;
- The State would have to find new sources of funds to replace both the State and employee contributions lost from new employees participating in a DC Plan or jeopardize the annuity payments to future TRS retirees still on the DB Plan;
- Investment income (a significant funding source) would decrease over time due to a decreasing investable balance in the TRS trust; and
- The State will need to run two retirement systems for 50+ years, increasing operating cost; and,

WHEREAS, an increase in the State contribution rate which at least matches the employee contribution rate (or greater if needed for actuarial soundness) will strengthen an already functioning plan more cost effectively and provide stability for retiree security and predictable State funding requirements; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the 17<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature strongly urges the 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature to reject any, and all, proposed legislation for conversion of the TRS DB Plan to a DC Plan, for both financial and operational reasons.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Education Committee.

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Trini Garza, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

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Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:

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Mary Collins, Secretary

By: Scott Christensen, Nancy Byler, Sherry Hubbard,  
Irene Andrews, Laura Borchardt, and Paul Stempko

No.T014

Committee: Education

**Reform TRS-Care by increasing the State's contribution rate (committed funding)**

A RESOLUTION TO: Reform TRS-Care by increasing the State's contribution rate, integrated with short and long-term cost projections and commensurate with its intended proportionate commitment, prior to any additional premium increases/benefit reductions.

WHEREAS, TRS-Care was established in 1986 to provide retiree health care insurance that would be funded on a shared basis, by State, school district, and active-employee contributions, and premiums (and out-of-pocket costs) paid by TRS retirees. TRS-Care has long surpassed the "placeholder" intent and for years the State was specifically authorized to fund up to 55% of the program's expenses. In FY 2017 TRS retirees contributed \$404 million in premiums (30.2% of ongoing revenue) plus \$287 million in deductibles, copays, and coinsurance while the State contributed \$328 million in formula-based funding (24.5% of ongoing revenue), and these figures are PRIOR to the significant retiree premium increases beginning in 2018; and

WHEREAS, TRS-CARE has not integrated its formula-based funding with rising health care and insurance costs. TRS-CARE encountered significant shortfalls three times since 2000 (2004-05, 2014-15, and projected 2018-19 biennium); the State contribution rate has been minimally adjusted; and, most of additional State funding came from one-time supplemental appropriations (reactive funding). In 2017, with no historical pattern of incremental premium increases over time to build reserves, TRS-Care implemented (legislatively recommended) significant premium increases (as high as 135%), along with higher deductibles and out-of-pocket thresholds, affecting over 260,000 TRS-Care participants; and

WHEREAS, the State solved \$1.6 billion+ of the three shortfalls with one-time fixes rather than legislate a sufficient State funding rate, and TRS-Care faces up to a \$700 million shortfall for the next biennium. Retirees and employees contributing in advance of retirement are concerned: "Will TRS-Care last? Can I afford It? What should I Do?" Therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the 17<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature strongly urges the 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature to reform TRS-Care through an increase of the State's contribution rate, integrated with short-term and long-term cost projections, commensurate with the State's intended proportionate commitment, prior to any additional premium increases/plan benefit reductions to retirees.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Education Committee.

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Trini Garza, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

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Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:

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Mary Collins, Secretary



Committee: Health & Human Resources

**Increase the Personal Needs Allowance for Medicaid Residents in Nursing Homes**

A RESOLUTION TO: Increase the personal needs allowance for Medicaid residents in Nursing Homes.

WHEREAS, The Texas Human Resources Code currently provides for a personal needs allowance of not less than sixty dollars (\$60.00) a month for a Medicaid resident of a nursing home licensed under Chapter 242 Health and Safety Code; and

WHEREAS, The personal needs allowance has experienced a checkerboard history of adjustments over the years, being reduced from sixty dollars (\$60.00) to forty-five dollars (\$45.00) in 2003 due to a budget crunch and restored to sixty dollars (\$60.00) in 2005; but the steady increase in the needs and costs of those needs have not been met by commensurate increases for more than thirteen (13) years, resulting in an inevitable, relentless erosion of relief to the elderly people who depend on this allowance; and

WHEREAS, Members of this group of citizens typically face so many personal obstacles merely staying alive for their remaining years, they are not able to compete in the legislative process themselves, so must depend entirely on vigilant and compassionate legislators to recognize and address their plights; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 17th Texas Silver Haired Legislature recommends that the 86th Texas Legislature alleviate the plight of this group of Texas seniors by setting a level of no less than seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) a month for the personal needs allowance and making this issue a budget priority.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Health & Human Resources Committee.

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Sue Wilson, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

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Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:

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Mary Collins, Secretary

By: Alan Abraham, Barbara Aydlett, Jetta Roberts, Mary Pat Smith and  
Betty Streckfuss,

No. T016

Committee: Health & Human Resources

**Establish Full-practice Authority for Advance Practice Registered Nurses (APRN)**

A RESOLUTION TO: Address Texas' workforce need for more primary care clinicians by removing the delegation requirement for APRN practice as mandated by statute.

WHEREAS, The American College of Physicians warns that primary care, the backbone of the nation's health care system, is "at grave risk of collapse," (Academy of Medicine, 2005) and that our primary care workforce, including general internal medicine (IM), family medicine, and general pediatrics, is facing "critical challenges" such as a precipitous decline in medical students choosing residency training in general IM, the primary care specialty treating elderly patients. (JAMA, 2008)

WHEREAS, According to one planning model, "...the United States will have 200,000 too few physicians by 2020" (Annals of Internal Medicine, 2004), placing the United States with a lower portion of primary care physicians relative to 12 other industrialized nations that score better on measures of cost and quality of care, even mortality.

WHEREAS, More than 50% of Texas baby boomers will be eligible for retirement by 2020. Texas' more than 24,105 practicing APRNs play a crucial role in addressing the state's growing workforce and changing health care needs. And they could do more if the Legislature would modernize its licensure laws to allow these APRNs to practice to the full extent of their training and education, remove costly and burdensome regulatory requirements such as signed delegation agreements with physicians, and place APRNs under the exclusive regulatory authority of the Texas Board of Nursing.

RESOLVED, That the 17th Texas Silver Haired Legislature encourages and strongly recommends that the 86th Texas Legislature amend relevant portions of the state's Occupations Code by removing the delegation requirements, granting APRNs full practice authority under the licensure regulation of the Texas Board of Nursing.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Health & Human Resources Committee.

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Sue Wilson, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

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Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:

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Mary Collins, Secretary

Committee: State Affairs

**Repeal the Emergency Service District (ESD) Maximum Property Tax Rate by Constitutional Amendment**

A RESOLUTION TO: Propose a constitutional amendment to repeal the ESD maximum property tax rate of \$0.10 per \$100 taxable value. Use existing State-mandated and defined ESD maximum property tax rate law (Health & Safety Code, Ch. 775) and Truth in Taxation Laws to control tax rate.

WHEREAS,

1. Texas ESDs are political subdivisions of the State of Texas created by Constitutional amendment, and Article III Section 48-e of the Constitution limits the ad valorem property tax rate of ESDs to \$.10 per \$100 taxable value (where one size fits all, insensitive to local needs and voter determination) to fund Fire/Emergency Medical Services (EMS); and,
2. ESDs are authorized to collect a local sales tax within the unused portion of the local 2% available, if voter approved, to fund Fire/EMS services provided by the local ESD; and

WHEREAS, Rural ESDs often have one or more of: (1) minimal commercial taxable property, (2) numerous properties subject to agricultural appraisal, (3) unpredictable taxable value due to varying value of oil/gas property, or (4) minimal local sales subject to sales tax. Rural areas have a higher proportion of 65 years and older citizens than urban areas (Census data) – the population most needing EMS. And, several ESDs have responded to the \$.10 tax rate limitation by creating an “overlay” District (and second ESD property tax) - government redundancy, waste (more government), and additional cost to get a (total) tax rate to support service local voters determine they need; and,

WHEREAS, Chapter 775 and Truth in Taxation exist to provide for local control of property tax rates (voter willingness level to finance through taxes). ESD property tax rates are capped by the local voters at ESD creation, stating the maximum tax rate the ESD will be authorized to set. And, voters must approve any increase in the maximum authorized tax rate. The \$.10 constitutional maximum prohibits ESDs from achieving even the “Effective Tax Rate” in a tax year where property valuation has decreased and the current year “Effective Tax Rate” exceeds \$.10 tax rate. The \$.10 cap impairs long-range planning, predictable, reliable service, and, runs counter to the principle of local voter control to approve/reject a tax rate to support required service for that locality; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, the 17<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 86<sup>th</sup> State Senate and State House of Representatives to approve a proposed Constitutional amendment to repeal the \$0.10 per \$100 of taxable value maximum property tax rate for ESDs, returning ESD property tax rate control to local ESD boards and citizens, still regulated by Chapter 775 and Truth in Taxation Laws already in place.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the State Affairs Committee.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Irma Cauley, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mary Collins, Secretary

**Establish the Quality Community Attendant Retention and Outreach Council**

A RESOLUTION TO: Provide quality community attendants to older Texans and people with disabilities.

WHEREAS, Approximately 300,000 community attendants provide vital services to older Texans and people with disabilities that assist in maintaining their health, independence, and ability to contribute to the community while remaining in their communities, and

WHEREAS, Community attendants generally receive low wages, minimal or no health or retirement benefits, no sick leave or travel reimbursement, and

WHEREAS, The turnover rate of community attendants is extremely high causing disruption in the delivery of critical community home and community services to older Texans and people with disabilities, now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the 17<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature to direct the Health and Human Services Commission to establish the "Quality Community Attendant Retention and Outreach Council" to develop strategies that will address the following community attendant issues: a) living wages, b) retention, c) shortage, d) access to health insurance and other benefits, and e) incentives to attract community attendants into the profession. This Council will make annual recommendations to the Commissioner of the HHSC including budget and legislative recommendations for the Governor and the Texas Legislature.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Human Services Committee.

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Mary Pat Smith, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

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Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:

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Mary Collins, Secretary

Committee: Human Services

**Support the HHSC prioritization of recruitment and retention of  
Medicaid Community Attendants by increasing funding**

A RESOLUTION TO: Support Senior Texans and persons with disabilities by providing direction to the Health and Human Services Commission (HHSC) and increasing Medicaid wages and benefits for Community Attendants.

WHEREAS, there is a growing number of older Texans and people with disabilities who need Medicaid funded home and community-based services, and there are almost 300,000 Medicaid Community Attendants in Texas currently providing these services and supports, and

WHEREAS, There is a critical shortage of Community Attendants who are willing to work at the low Medicaid rates set by the State, and Community Attendants usually do not receive health insurance, vacation, sick leave or other benefits, and Community Attendants can receive more salary and benefits in retail and fast food employment, and

WHEREAS, this crisis of competent Medicaid Community Attendants will limit the ability of older Texans and seniors with disabilities to live independently and age in place, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 17<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature to support the HHSC prioritization of the Recruitment and Retention of Medicaid Community Attendants by increasing funding for wages and benefits to \$15 per hour.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Human Services Committee.

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Mary Pat Smith, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

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Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:

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Mary Collins, Secretary



Committee: Health & Human Resources

**increase funding for the Adult Safety Net Immunization Program to add the influenza vaccine**

A RESOLUTION TO: Increase funding for the Adult Safety Net Immunization Program at the Texas Department of State Health Services in order to add the influenza vaccine to the list of vaccines offered through the program.

WHEREAS, The Texas Legislature and the Texas Department of State Health Services created the Adult Safety Net Immunization Program to increase access to vaccination services in Texas for uninsured adults by providing low-cost vaccines to persons 19 years of age and older who do not have health insurance, thereby raising the immunization coverage levels and improving the health of Texans; and

WHEREAS, the following vaccines are currently offered through the Adult Safety Net program: Hepatitis A vaccine; Hepatitis B vaccine; Combination hepatitis A-hepatitis B vaccine; Human papillomavirus (HPV) vaccine; Measles, mumps, & rubella (MMR) vaccine; Meningococcal vaccine; Pneumococcal polysaccharide vaccine (PPSV23); Pneumococcal conjugate vaccine (PCV13); Tetanus, diphtheria, & pertussis (Tdap) vaccine; Tetanus-diphtheria (Td) vaccine; Varicella vaccine; Zoster (Shingles) vaccine; and

WHEREAS, despite a significant outbreak of influenza in Texas, the influenza vaccine is not currently among the list of vaccines included in the Adult Safety Net Immunization Program; now, therefore, it is

RESOLVED, That the 17th Texas Silver Haired Legislature recommends that the 86th Texas Legislature increase funding for the Adult Safety Net Immunization Program at the Texas Department of State Health Services in order to add the influenza vaccine to the list of vaccines offered through the program.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Health & Human Resources Committee.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sue Wilson, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mary Collins, Secretary

Committee: Retirement & Aging

**Form a Task Force to study the need and solutions for housing for LGBT Seniors in Texas**

A RESOLUTION TO: Create a task force to determine the need and potential solutions for safe and affordable housing for seniors who are lesbian, gay, bisexual or transgender.

WHEREAS, Over seventy-seven million U.S. citizens reach the age of 65 in 2012 and at least 1.5 million of that number are known to be LGBT, a number expected to double by 2030 (Services and Advocacy for LGBT Elders), and

WHEREAS, LGBT seniors fear discrimination, disrespect, bullying, and lack of services because of their age and sexual orientation (Associated Press), and

WHEREAS, U.S. antidiscrimination laws prohibit gay-only public housing, and private targeted LGBT housing is financially prohibitive, especially for the 49% of Americans over 65 considered to be poor or low-income (U.S. Census); now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 17<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 86th Texas Legislature to form a Task Force, consisting of over 50% of members as representatives of the LGBT community, to study this issue in Texas resulting in a report to the Governor, Legislature and the Housing Authority.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Retirement & Aging Committee.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Don Murphy, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mary Collins, Secretary



By: Linda Parrish

No. T022

Committee: Retirement & Aging

**Establish a Texas Guardianship Task Force to recommend reform**

A RESOLUTION TO: Protect the rights and dignity of the individual and meet the needs of individuals and families throughout the guardianship process.

WHEREAS, There is a growing use of Guardianship in the state of Texas, as well as a growing number of reports of abuses within the current Guardianship process, such as guardians selling the assets and controlling the lives of senior citizens without their consent and reaping the profits from it, and

WHEREAS, The rights of seniors, children, and families must be protected before, during and after Guardianship is established, and

WHEREAS, There is a need for policy reform proposed to the current Guardianship process as well as alternatives that protect the rights and dignity of individuals and families; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 17th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature recommends that the 86th Texas Legislature establish a Texas Guardianship Task Force to recommend reform of the current practice, process, and policies of guardianship for future legislative action.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Retirement & Aging Committee.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Don Murphy, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mary Collins, Secretary

**Pass Legislation To Determine Future Of State Supported Living Centers**

A RESOLUTION TO: Revisit the review process of State Supported Living Centers (SSLC) for the purpose of continuing the deinstitutionalization process that successfully began in the early 1990s in Texas.

WHEREAS, The population residing in state institutions is aging and diminishing, with fewer families choosing this living option for their family members; at the same time the costs of institutionalization are increasing—currently estimated to be in excess of \$200,000 annually per person-- resulting in resources for community settings being negatively affected, and

WHEREAS, The State of Texas has received numerous reports from the Department of Justice, among others, citing safety violations targeting the residents, as well as the increasing awareness that most Texans prefer living in their own communities, and

WHEREAS, The State of Texas has a successful model, House Bill 7, which was passed by the 72<sup>nd</sup> Texas Legislature which resulted in the successful closure of two of the State's 13 institutions, saving the taxpayers millions of dollars and successfully placing residents in communities or consolidating the remaining centers, and reconsidered in Senate Bill 602 in the last legislative session (2017); now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED That the 17<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 86th Texas Legislature to pass legislation similar to HB 7 of the 72<sup>nd</sup> Legislature, that created an independent "Facilities Review Task Force" with the purpose of determining the feasibility and future of the State Supported Living Centers.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Health & Human Resources Committee.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sue Wilson, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mary Collins, Secretary

Committee: State Affairs

**Pass legislation that regulates the Payday and Auto Title Lending Industry in Texas.**

A RESOLUTION TO: Protect the rights, dignity, and financial security of Seniors and other targeted populations against predatory lending agencies.

WHEREAS, There is a growing abuse of the short term loan industry that targets persons that have little potential of repaying the loans on time or at the interest rates often greater than 600%, and

WHEREAS, The U.S. Consumer Financial Protection Bureau found that nearly half of all payday loan customers have more that 10 refinances or new loans each year with Texas cited as having fees typically around \$22.00 per \$100.00 borrowed, and

WHEREAS, Many local Texas municipalities have passed effective ordinances limiting payments to 20% of the borrower's monthly income, allowing not more that three loan renewals, and providing other protections of its citizens, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 17th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature recommends that the 86th Texas Legislature pass legislation that regulates the Payday and Auto Title Lending Industry throughout the State of Texas.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the State Affairs Committee.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Irma Cauley, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mary Collins, Secretary

Committee: Health & Human Resources

**Maintain Current Medicaid Reimbursement for Nursing Homes**

A RESOLUTION TO: Maintain current Medicaid reimbursement for nursing homes in Texas.

WHEREAS: The State of Texas ranks consistently at the bottom in the nation for Medicaid reimbursement of Texas nursing homes, with \$138.00 per day per resident vs a cost of \$158.00 per day per resident; and

WHEREAS: of the 93,000 residents in the 1228 nursing homes in Texas, 61.34% have Medicaid as their primary payer; and

WHEREAS: If the Texas state budget proposes even a 10 percent reduction in Medicaid spending, the loss totals 33 percent when the loss of Federal matching funds is factored in: therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the 17<sup>th</sup> Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature to maintain the current Medicaid reimbursement rate and shift these budget cuts to other areas to prevent the closure of nursing homes and loss of care by the poorest of our elderly population.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Health & Human Resources Committee.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sue Wilson, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mary Collins, Secretary

By: Carol Peters, Louise Butler, Ruben Saenz,  
Sue Wilson, and Mary Pat Smith

No. T026

Committee: Rural - Urban

**Extend Texas Public Radio access to all rural Texas areas**

A RESOLUTION TO: Bring Texas Public Radio to more rural areas in Texas thus extending Owl Radio services to more seniors who are aging in place.

WHEREAS, Texas Public Radio, the sub-carrier channel of Owl Radio, and other satellite sources are not yet available for sight-challenged and print-impaired populations in Texas rural counties to receive free and easy access to news-reading service for those with visual, physical, or reading disabilities; and

WHEREAS, More senior citizens with sight and print disabilities are choosing to age in place in rural areas to conserve their financial resources and often rely on Owl Radio services to provide volunteers to read current news for them and to project it onto the airways via Texas Public Radio to free radios equipped to receive that service; and

WHEREAS, Owl Radio provides free radios through the website [www.owlradio.org](http://www.owlradio.org) with volunteer readers of local and national media sources such as People Magazine, San Antonio Express-News, The Wall Street Journal, and Reader's Digest allowing seniors with sight and print disabilities to keep up 24/7 with most current news and information as well as providing seniors with challenging mental exercise which can help fight dementia and Alzheimer's; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the 17<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired legislature recommends that the 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature seek to extend Texas Public Radio access to all rural Texas areas thus increasing Owl Radio availability for the elderly who need low vision resources.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Rural - Urban Committee.

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Ken Arterbury, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

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Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:

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Mary Collins, Secretary

Committee: Utilities & Natural Resources

**Provide funding and a committee structure for a protocol for AAA use during disasters**

A RESOLUTION TO: Enable AAA's to work effectively with first responders during times of state declared disasters.

WHEREAS, When natural or man-made disasters strike, there are priorities and tiers of help that must be triaged to provide help to residents, and

WHEREAS, Agency Areas on Aging have the charge and structures in place to work with the aged, poor and minority populations within their jurisdictions, and

WHEREAS, An organized protocol for how to contact, who to contact and when to provide assistance to area elderly would make decision making more efficient; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 17<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature to provide funding and a committee structure for the study, planning and creation of a protocol for each AAA to use when a disaster is declared in that AAA or its adjacent sphere of influence in Texas.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Utilities & Natural Resources Committee.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Louise Butler, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mary Collins, Secretary

Committee: Utilities & Natural Resources

**Increase funding for the examination, exploration and support for Texas desalination**

A RESOLUTION TO: Increase legislative funding that facilitates and expands water production in Texas through desalination.

WHEREAS, By 2020 Texas will need 600,000 acre-feet of water per year in just the Rio Grande Valley alone to satisfy our fast growing population and more groundwater is being used than replenished drawing down the state's major aquifers, and

WHEREAS, Reliable sources of water for small and mid-sized communities across the state will maintain the viability of those communities for their elderly and least mobile residents, and

WHEREAS, Aggressive evaluation of desalination technologies is the key to reducing the cost of desalination which is currently twice the cost of capturing groundwater; now therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the 17<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature to increase funding for the examination, exploration and support for desalination technologies and facilities in Texas.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Utilities & Natural Resources Committee.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Louise Butler, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mary Collins, Secretary

Committee: Utilities & Natural Resources

**Protect the historic water rights of elderly by allowing exemptions from permit moratoriums**

A RESOLUTION TO: Protect the “Rule of Capture” rights of senior citizens from water conservation district moratoriums on ground water permitting.

WHEREAS, the purpose and effect of a moratorium on permits from the conservation district is to increase governmental control of well water; and,

WHEREAS, moratoriums on permitting impact the ability of elderly land owners to use the water under their feet to provide for their financial maintenance and stability; and,

WHEREAS, the use of a moratorium favors the legal, financial and social resources of the conservation district disproportionately over the elderly land owner; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the 17th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature recommends that the 86th Texas Legislature protect the historic water rights of the elderly by allowing the current owners of these wells to be exempted from moratoriums on permits.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Utilities & Natural Resources Committee.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Louise Butler, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mary Collins, Secretary





Committee: Criminal Justice

**Increase criminal level and fines who perpetrate internet fraud against seniors**

A RESOLUTION TO: Increase criminal level and fines with an area of special designation for the perpetrator of the crime of internet fraud against senior citizens.

WHEREAS, Over a third of Americans aged 65 and older use the Internet on a daily basis and costly internet fraud is on the rise in Texas with technologically inexperienced seniors disproportionately targeted; and

WHEREAS, Seniors are more susceptible to health care remedies, more concerned about the safety of their families, and can lose a lifetime of savings to criminals who work through the internet to contact seniors when they are at an age of increased vulnerability; and

WHEREAS, Media attention caused by increased punishment and fines for internet scammers who attack the elderly would bring a higher likelihood that seniors will report internet fraud and help decrease satisfaction for those who would take financial advantage of the elderly through misuse of technology; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED that the 17<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature recommends that the 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature protect the lifetime savings of the elderly by increasing the criminal levels and fines on those who target Texas citizens who are over age 60.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Criminal Justice Committee.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Bill Bailey, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:

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Mary Collins, Secretary

Committee: Human Services

**Add Private Certified Nursing Homes to the Loanstar Revolving Loan Program.**

A RESOLUTION TO: Make the Loanstar Revolving Loan Program available to retirement and nursing homes to finance energy-related cost-reduction retrofits to all their facilities.

WHEREAS, Texas already has a government code (10 Tex. Admin. Code §19 41-45) which offers state institutions the opportunity to make low-interest loans to help pay for the retrofitting of their facilities with alternative energy, cost-saving projects; and

WHEREAS, the applicants for these loans are allowed to repay the loans with the cost savings from the use of these alternative energy devices; and

WHEREAS, there are over 1200 certified nursing facilities in Texas, providing over 132,000 beds, all of which could benefit from the efficiency and saving provided by alternative energy; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 17th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature recommends that the 86th Texas Legislature extend its list of qualified recipients of the Loanstar Revolving Loan Program to include all certified nursing homes.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Human Services Committee.

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Mary Pat Smith, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

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Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:

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Mary Collins, Secretary

Committee: Health & Human Resources

**Use alternative funding to reduce the gap in Medicaid nursing home reimbursement.**

A RESOLUTION TO: Increase current Medicaid reimbursement for nursing homes in Texas using an alternative funding option to improve quality of care and quality of life of residents.

WHEREAS: There is a reported \$20 per patient day reimbursement gap between the actual cost of Medicaid nursing home care in Texas and the current Medicaid nursing home reimbursement rate, and

WHEREAS: The current \$20 per patient day reimbursement gap prevents Medicaid nursing home providers from being able to make needed renovations to existing buildings, upgrade medical equipment, increase staffing and professional development, provide programs to enhance resident independence and quality of life, and grow positive family involvement, and

WHEREAS: Additional funds must be tied to increased staffing, capital upgrades, and programs to improve quality of care and quality of life of elders in Texas nursing homes; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the 17<sup>th</sup> Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature to use alternative funding options to reduce the \$20 per patient day gap in Medicaid nursing home reimbursement. Nursing home providers must direct new funding towards increased staffing, staff development, capital improvements, and implementing programs to enhance quality of care and quality of life of residents, and positive involvement of family members. If alternative funding is not found, then the 86<sup>th</sup> Legislature must move funding from another program into the Medicaid nursing home program.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Health & Human Resources Committee.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sue Wilson, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mary Collins, Secretary

Committee: Rural - Urban

**Support Public Policy, Initiatives to Expand Rural Texas Broadband Infrastructure**

A RESOLUTION TO: Support public policy and initiatives to expand rural Texas broadband infrastructure.

WHEREAS, Rural Texas seniors suffer from a lack of local doctors and medical, in-home-care, end-of-life, and long-term-care facilities and services and would benefit greatly from access to broadband telemedicine and other economic and quality-of-life digital services that require rural broadband infrastructure; and

WHEREAS, The federal government plans to block grant funds to states for their use in funding crucial rural broadband infrastructure expansion and upgrade; and

WHEREAS, Wireless private sector research, development and deployment of 5G, small cell, satellite and other wireless services are supplanting fiber-to-the-home (ftth) as the broadband technologies most conducive to rapid rural infrastructure deployment; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 17<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature recommends that the 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature pass legislation determining how the state will use available public funds and public/private partnerships and other initiatives to facilitate the rapid expansion and upgrade of rural broadband infrastructure using technologies best suited to carry rural services, such as: telemedicine; coordinated statewide first-responder, disaster-response network, and homeland security; K-12 and higher education; job-training, workforce-readiness, and opioid-addiction recovery; and other essential emergency preparedness, economic-development, and quality-of-life services, at competitive rates and at Life Line rates for those rural Texas seniors and Texans with disabilities who qualify for social services.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Rural-Urban Committee.

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Ken Arterbury, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

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Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:

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Mary Collins, Secretary

Committee: Education

**Allow Teacher Retirement System (TRS) To Establish Permanent Cost Of Living Adjustment (Cola) For Retired Public Education Employees**

A RESOLUTION TO: Approve a permanent annual cost-of-living adjustment for public education employees.

WHEREAS, All Texas public education retirees have financial pressures and increased costs and lower buying power that many other states and the Federal Government have provided annual cost-of-living adjustments in order that retirees can maintain the retirement status that they were promised, and that retirees that retired in 2004 and before received a small COLA in the 83<sup>rd</sup> legislative session and since retirees after 2004 receive basic retirement checks that have not increased in more than 14 years; and

WHEREAS, The 83<sup>rd</sup> Texas Legislature passed contribution rates starting in 2014, 2015, 2016, and 2017 allowing the TRS Pension Trust Fund to be actuarially sound and pay off the unfunded liability in 28 years; and

WHEREAS, The Texas Legislature has the ability to relieve these financial pressures on retirees which will end the biannual political discussion and controversy related to varying contributions by local educational entities, The Texas Retirement System and State funds; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the 17<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature requests the 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature allow the Teacher Retirement System (TRS) to establish a permanent cost-of-living adjustment for all retired public education employees, including those that retired after 2004.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Education Committee.

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Trini Garza, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

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Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:

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Mary Collins, Secretary

Committee: Human Services

**Preserve or Increase Funding for Home-Delivered Meals**

A RESOLUTION TO: insure that funding at all levels of the State government is increased for meals that are delivered to senior's homes.

WHEREAS, Home-delivered meals in Texas are an important lifeline to many isolated, lonely, and frail senior adults, and the social contact of the person delivering meals daily is an important preventative to premature institutionalization and health emergencies; and

WHEREAS, The home-delivered meals program in Texas is the greatest "Medicaid Prevention Program" that exists; and

WHEREAS, Even at current funding levels, maintaining the numbers now being served will be difficult, if not impossible, with the rising cost of food and supplies; and anticipated growth of the senior population; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 17<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 86th Texas Legislature to preserve or increase current funding for home-delivered meals to senior citizens..

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Human Services Committee.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mary Pat Smith, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mary Collins, Secretary

Committee: Human Services

**Alternative Procedures for the Elderly in Post Disaster Declaration Areas**

A RESOLUTION TO: Require that, during a formal State of Emergency declaration, agencies receiving state or pass-through funding develop and implement alternative delivery procedures for eligibility determination and the delivery of social services for persons who are at least 65 years of age and/or medically frail.

WHEREAS, Hurricane Harvey flooded 1/3 of the Houston and the surrounding areas as well as major portions of the Beaumont-Port Arthur area impacting 336,000 individuals and 136,000 households in the Houston area alone; and

WHEREAS, A significant number of individuals and households applied for federal, state and/or local benefits adding additional workload to systems, agencies and programs already at or near capacity, thus causing adverse conditions, including but not limited to the delivery of services at make-shift locations with long wait times and lines of up to 2-3 hours without shelter from the elements, or places to sit and rest; and

WHEREAS, The above stated conditions added additional barriers to the elderly and/or medically-frail in obtaining life sustaining services such as emergency food stamps, vouchers, gift cards, housing assistance, and other relevant disaster related assistance; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 17<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver Haired Legislature urges the 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature to recognize the special needs of the elderly and/or medically frail and require any agency, sub-contractor, or any entity that receives state or pass-through funding during a State of Emergency to implement alternative elder-friendly procedures for eligibility determination and the acquisition of assistance.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Human Services Committee.

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Mary Pat Smith, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

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Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:

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Mary Collins, Secretary



Committee: Human Services

**Ensure Adequate Funding for Senior Corps Programs in Texas**

A RESOLUTION TO: Ensure adequate state funding in the 2019-2021 biennium for Senior Corps programs in Texas, including the Retired and Senior Volunteer Program (RSVP), the Foster Grandparents Program (FGP), and the Senior Companions Program (SCP).

WHEREAS, Texas Senior Corps is the leading senior volunteer service partnership for solving community problems, strengthening communities and building the capacity of nonprofit organizations in Texas by empowering over 29,000 volunteers, fifty-five and older, to make a difference every day through Senior Corps programs, and

WHEREAS, Through the Corporation for National and Community Service (CNCS) state dollars leverage federal funding in the neighborhood of \$9 million to many of Texas' volunteer agencies including Senior Corps programs. For example, in 2017 Texas added three new RSVP projects on a \$300,000 CNCS grant helping to grow senior volunteerism in our state.

WHEREAS, Senior Corps programs have been held to level funding by the state legislature since FY 2011; yet the demands for volunteerism continue to expand in the Lone Star state as demographics place 65 and older adults as the state's fastest growing segment of the population.

RESOLVED, That the 17<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver Haired Legislature urges the 86th Texas Legislature to authorize the Health and Human Services Commission to increase funding for Texas Senior Corps by three percent (3%) in its 2019-2021 biennium budget to better serve the increasing needs of the community.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Human Services Committee.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mary Pat Smith, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mary Collins, Secretary

Committee: Human Services

**Develop Family Caregiver Training for Families of Seniors & People with Disabilities**

A RESOLUTION TO: Instruct Health and Human Services Commission to develop an ongoing proactive family caregiver training initiative focused on preventing out of home facility placement due to problematic behavioral challenges in their adult children with intellectual & developmental disabilities and dementia through various interventions, including positive behavioral support strategies.

WHEREAS, About 6% of adults with an intellectual disability will be affected by some form of dementia after the age of 60 (with the percentage increasing with age) and for adults with Down Syndrome, studies show that at least 25% will be affected with dementia after age 40 and at least 50% to 70% will be affected with dementia after age 60; and

WHEREAS, There are at least 425,000 adults with an intellectual disability and cognitive decline (dementia and MCI) in the United States. Further, estimates drawn from the *2013 State of the States* report also suggest that there may be over 300,000 adults with *developmental* disabilities and dementia currently living at home with older family caregivers and perhaps twice as many living in out-of-family-home settings; and

WHEREAS, Most adults with an intellectual disability live in community settings, mostly at home with support from families, friends and service providers and with advanced age many experience age-related conditions and diseases, including dementia. Care and supports for adults with intellectual disability affected by dementia can be primarily provided within the community, typically at home, and appropriate services can prevent institutionalization; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 17th Texas Silver Haired Legislature encourage and strongly recommend that the 85th Texas Legislature instruct HHSC to develop an ongoing proactive family care-giver training initiative focused on preventing out of home facility placement due to problematic behavioral challenges in their adult children with intellectual and developmental disabilities and dementia, compounded by caregiver challenges experienced by seniors when caring for their disabled adult children.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Human Services Committee.

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Mary Pat Smith, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

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Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:

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Mary Collins, Secretary

Committee: Human Services

**Commission a Service Needs Study of Texans over 60 by HHS**

A RESOLUTION TO: In the absence of a dedicated and focused Department of Aging, The 17<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver Haired Legislature instructs HHSC to study the unique support and service needs of Texans over the age of 60; and

WHEREAS; Over the last decade, The Texas Legislature has not responded to community cries to recreate a Department of Aging to meet the needs of our growing senior population: and

WHEREAS; Without re-establishing a Texas Department of Aging, the 10,000 new Texans who each day reach the age of 65 continue to be without a State agency which has the knowledge and capacity to meet their needs; and

WHEREAS; In order to develop best practices for bridging the aging and the seniors' caregiving networks, Texas needs to pursue research and stakeholder input to assess and understand the significant, growing and complex needs of seniors and their families; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED; That the 17<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver Haired Legislature encourages and strongly recommends that the 85<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature instruct HHSC to commission a study of Texas seniors and the unique support and services needs of their families and publish a plan of response.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Human Services Committee.

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Mary Pat Smith, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

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Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:

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Mary Collins, Secretary



Committee: State Affairs

**Rebuild the Texas Department on Aging**

A RESOLUTION TO rebuild the Texas Department on Aging as the visible single State Unit on Aging.

WHEREAS, Senate Bill 374, passed by the 76<sup>th</sup> Legislature, created a new commission on long-term care, consolidating the Texas Department on Aging into the Texas Department of Human Services (TDHS) now HHS; and,

WHEREAS, The Texas Department on Aging in partnership with the 28 Area Agencies on Aging have, in the past, proactively responded to emerging new mandates and a variety of aging issues; and the proposed consolidation of these state agencies has had a tremendous negative impact on the rapidly increasing population of elderly in the state due to the different missions and philosophies of these agencies as mandated by their unique funding sources, which further confuses and disrupts the service delivery infrastructure at the local level; and,

WHEREAS, The service delivery philosophy of the Texas Department of Human Services (now HHS) evolved from the welfare system which is based on income means tests, functional needs, and other targeted eligibility criteria; but the concept of local authority evidenced by TDOA in the past enabled the planning, development, and evolution of an array of programs and services for the elderly at the community level; resulting in continued local support and commitment to these programs among the local citizenry, governments, church organizations, and funders; now, therefore, be it,

RESOLVED That the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the Texas Legislature to rebuild the Texas Department on Aging as a single State Unit on Aging to ensure planning and advocacy for all older Texans regardless of income, social, and/or functional need, and to better prepare for the burgeoning volume of the aging.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the State Affairs Committee.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Irma Cauley, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mary Collins, Secretary

Committee: Human Services

**Support Volunteer Programs That Engage Seniors In Quality Of Life Activities**

A RESOLUTION TO: Increase public attention, education, and support for non-profit memory loss and jail and prison programs that provide assistance to seniors and the disabled suffering from Mild Cognitive Impairment, Alzheimer's disease, and other forms of dementia in order to improve their quality of life through oral storytelling, memoirs, literacy, and illustration projects.

WHEREAS, These conditions of cognitive impairment significantly increase with age. It is reported that almost 14% of individuals over the age of 71 meet the criteria for these conditions, and social and psychological effects of memory loss can be devastating for individuals as the slow deterioration of autobiographical memories can cause depression and anxiety which directly affects one's sense of self and identity; and

WHEREAS, The number of prisoners age 55 or older sentenced to more than one year in state prison increased 400% between 1993 and 2013, and there are currently 27,000 Texas inmates over the age of 50 (accounting for approximately 18% of the prison population) which is the fastest-growing demographic group among prisoners; and

WHEREAS, Incorporating artistic expression in programs for seniors allows the elderly suffering from memory loss and chronic degenerative diseases to address a wide range of health benefits to reduce anxiety and depression, alleviate pain, and even uncover connections and passions about the world that may otherwise begin to be clouded by memory loss; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the 17<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature, urges the 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature to support public programs that enlist volunteers to engage seniors, both in the general public and incarcerating facilities, in oral storytelling, memoirs, and artistic illustration activities in order to improve their quality of life and uncover connections otherwise lost.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Human Services Committee.

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Mary Pat Smith, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

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Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:

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Mary Collins, Secretary

Committee: Criminal Justice

**Amend Texas Penal Code To Include And Penalize Undue Influence**

A RESOLUTION TO: Amend Subchapter D, Chapter 32 in the Texas Penal Code by adding a new Section on Financial Abuse of Elderly Individual to include "undue influence" in the definition of the offense and assign criminal penalties.

WHEREAS, The Office of the State Demographer (2016) confirms that Texas' aging population is growing fast (close to 4 million by 2020, 6 million by 2030), and according to a True Link Report on Financial Elder Abuse, as high as 36.9% of seniors are affected by financial abuse in any five-year period; and

WHEREAS, To fully comprehend the treachery behind this deceitful crime, one must take into account that roughly 6 out of 10 cases of elder financial abuse are committed by relatives, according to a large-scale 2014 study, and is taking from its victims, according to an Utah study, on average \$116,000 per victim, nearly triple the haul taken by strangers. (AARP The Magazine, Feb/Mar 2018); and

WHEREAS, Because specialized terminology is part of separating financial exploitation from other forms of elder abuse, a new Section to the current statute would encourage more enforcement against this crime, such phrases as a persuasion short of actual force, ongoing relationship of trust, vulnerable adult, subject to the will of a dominating party, and personal gain to the perpetrator without the informed consent of the victim. Inasmuch as the outcome from exploitation by undue influence is financial insecurity and the victim's inability to pay bills, to buy medicine, or to take care of oneself, enhanced enforcement would be beneficial; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 17th Texas Silver Haired Legislature urges the 86th Texas Legislature to amend Subchapter D, Chapter 32 on Fraud, by adding a new Section on Financial Abuse of Elderly Individual, and to include undue influence along with misdemeanor and felony penalties.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Criminal Justice Committee.

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Bill Bailey, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

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Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:

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Mary Collins, Secretary

Committee: Retirement & Aging

**End The Phase Out Law And Reinstate Free Fishing License For Texans 65 And Older**

WHEREAS, Prior to 1995, Texas elderly 65 years of age and older were recognized and honored, by Texas legislature, to receive a free fishing license, and

WHEREAS, In 1995, the Texas governor signed into law, HB1785, to phase out this program and place a financial charge on the elderly which became effective September 1, 1995, 23 years ago. Texans born prior to January 1, 1931 (87 years of age or older) are eligible to receive free fishing license, while Texans born after January 1, 1931, 65 or older, must purchase a "Senior Package" which generates revenue for the state and lessens the recognition and honor once granted to Texas senior citizens, and

WHEREAS, Reciprocity agreements with Oklahoma and Louisiana seems to allow their elderly 65 years of age and older to fish Texas waters free of charge, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the 17<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature requests that the 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature reinstate the recognition, honor, and privilege, once granted to Texans 65 years of age and older, by stopping the phase out program and reinstating the free fishing license to Texas senior citizens 65 years of age or older.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Retirement & Aging Committee.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Don Murphy, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:

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Mary Collins, Secretary



Committee: State Affairs

**Restrict Use Of Political Parties' Initials And Names to Campaign Only**

A RESOLUTION TO: Restrict the use of party name or party initials after the Texas Legislator begins the elected term.

WHEREAS, Elected Representatives and Senators take an oath to serve all constituents in their respective districts regardless of party affiliation, voters or non-voters, equally; and

WHEREAS, Constituents may be intimidated with the politician's party initial or the party name spelled out, if they were not affiliated with the legislator's party or if the constituent chose not to vote; and

WHEREAS, Prematurely taking a stance on issues prior to hearing from the district constituents may violate the Oath of Office and suggest voting for party rather than the district constituents; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That 17<sup>th</sup> TSHL urges the 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature restrict the use of party name or party initials to the time the politician legally files for office and is elected (during campaign). After taking the Oath of Office, which begins the elected term, party name and party initials are not to be used in any written material.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the State Affairs Committee.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Irma Cauley, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mary Collins, Secretary

Committee: State Affairs

**Enact Legislation to Eliminate Emergency Flashing Lights on Non-Emergency Vehicles**

A RESOLUTION TO: Restrict distractions caused by non-emergency vehicles using flashing lights for any reason. Flashing lights would then provide their original meaning: police, fire or ambulance emergency vehicle en route.

WHEREAS, Currently various State, County and City government entities have endorsed various vehicles to be equipped with a variety of flashing lights, because they have proliferated to such a large degree they now serve as only a distraction for drivers rather than a warning of danger in the area; and

WHEREAS, Seniors with various eye problems and diminished ability to see and perceive dangerous situations are bombarded with distractions; thus, fewer flashing lights will provide safer roads and highways for all, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 17<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver Haired Legislature encourage and strongly recommend that the 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature enact legislation that eliminate all exemptions for the use of flashing lights except for police, fire and ambulance vehicles.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the State Affairs Committee.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Irma Cauley, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mary Collins, Secretary

By: Sue Wilson, Barbara Aydlett, Ahia Shabaaz, Mary Pat Smith,  
Susan Merrick, Mike Sandoval, Paul Stempko  
and Debra Smith Anderson

No. T046

Committee: Retirement & Aging

**Continue Funding DKR Texas Alzheimer's Initiative Supporting Texas Alzheimer's  
Research And Care Consortium**

A RESOLUTION TO: Continue funding for Darrell K Royal Texas Alzheimer's Initiative supporting the Texas Alzheimer's Research and Care Consortium (TARCC).

WHEREAS, The Darrell K Royal Texas Alzheimer's Initiative, a funded special item Art. III, University of Texas at Austin, is an important collaborative research effort that includes Baylor College of Medicine, Texas Tech University Health Sciences Center, University of North Texas Health Science Center, UT Southwestern Medical Center at Dallas, University of Texas Health Science Center at San Antonio, University of Texas Medical Branch at Galveston, University of Texas Health Science Center at Houston, University of Texas at Austin Dell Medical Center, and Texas A&M Health Science Center, and

WHEREAS, TARCC maintains a large, well characterized research cohort containing longitudinal clinical, neuropsychiatric, genetic, and blood biomarker data on more than 3000 participants diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease (AD), mild cognitive impairment (MCI), and normal study controls, and

WHEREAS, The state-funded effort, named in honor and memory of iconic Texas football Coach Darrell K Royal, is unique in the nation and has greatly increased Texas' capacity to advance research and discovery to improve early diagnosis, treatment, and prevention of Alzheimer's disease; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature to continue funding this important Darrell K Royal Texas Alzheimer's Initiative to support the Texas Alzheimer's Research and Care Consortium (TARCC).

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Retirement & Aging Committee.

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Don Murphy, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

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Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:

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Mary Collins, Secretary

Committee: Human Services

**Restore Funding Of The Texas Lifespan Respite Care Program (TLRCP)**

A RESOLUTION TO: Restore Funding of the Texas Lifespan Respite Care Program (TLRCP).

WHEREAS, According to AARP, Texas unpaid family caregivers provide an estimated 3.2 billion hours of care annually – about \$35 billion worth of care. The value of the care provided by these unpaid family caregivers is more than the entire Texas Medicaid program, federal and state spending combined, and

WHEREAS, Through grants to eight Aging and Disability Resource Centers, the Texas Lifespan Respite Program (TLRCP) provides needed respite services to unpaid family caregivers who are unable to access respite through other programs, and

WHEREAS, At the cost of \$500,000 in state General Revenue (\$1.0 Million in the Biennium), TLRCP Funds are used to match federal grant dollars available through the Administration on Community Living (ACL), and provide unpaid family caregivers with a break to be able to go to a doctor appointment, the grocery store, or just have a few minutes when they are not on call. The TLRCP service is a cost-effective way to help unpaid family caregivers manage daily stress and continue to support their loved one at home; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature to restore \$500,000 in annual General Revenue funding (\$1.0 million in the Biennium) to the Texas Lifespan Respite Care Program to provide desperately needed hours of respite to Texas unpaid family caregivers.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Human Services Committee.

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Mary Pat Smith, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

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Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:

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Mary Collins, Secretary

Committee:

**Establish The Texas Transition And Integration Of Care Coalition**

A RESOLUTION TO: Establish The Texas Transition and Integration of Care Coalition of Health Care Professionals to develop and adopt guidelines for the Transition and Integration of Care as is found in other states for the betterment of patient care, with members representing all health care professionals, state long-term care ombudsman, and senior advocates to insure the safe and seamless transition of care through careful Integration specialty care to Texas Seniors.

WHEREAS, Transition and Integration of Care includes patients from primary care to specialty physicians, and often from one facility to a completely different physical location where the patient and caregivers are unknown and have no knowledge of the facility or professional staff that often are not completely aware of existing diagnoses plans of care or patient wishes, and

WHEREAS, uncoordinated transitions between patient, family, and health care providers lead to unplanned crises situations such as worsening conditions, untreated existing unassociated problems such as gastric upset or even ulcers from improper care, and

WHEREAS, the National Transition of Care Coalition has adopted guidelines to include;

1. Medication management
2. Transition Planning
3. Patient and Family Engagement and Education
4. Information Transfer
5. Follow-up Care
6. Healthcare provider engagement, and
7. Shared accountability across providers and organization
8. And Integration of All Involved services to be provided to bring cohesive care;

now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the 17<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature recommends the 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature authorize the creation of such a Coalition in Texas.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Human Services Committee.

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Mary Pat Smith, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

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Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:

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Mary Collins, Secretary

Committee: Retirement & Aging

**Promote Evidence-Based Testing Of Marijuana and Allow Licensed Physicians To Prescribe Medical Marijuana Without Fear of Prosecution**

A Resolution To: Allow authorized Licensed Physicians to Prescribe marijuana for medical purposes for persons of all ages suffering from milder but intractable pain without fear of prosecution of patient or caregiver.

WHEREAS, aging, less-adaptable patients with terminal or debilitating illness such as pain and nausea produced by chemotherapy and or radiation used for treatment of many illnesses related to malignancies show great benefit from use of medical marijuana in a safe and effective treatment plan controlled by state law, and

WHEREAS, medical use of marijuana for veterans, seniors and others should be a personal and individual decision made by appropriate, licensed medical professionals and their patients without fear of being charged with a criminal act for such use and for the caregivers of these patients who administer the medication considered illegal, and

WHEREAS, Denying the use of medical marijuana due to the risk of addiction unnecessarily penalizes veterans and other elderly, pain-riddled citizens by forcing them to either endure pain or rely on other pain-suppressing drugs that impose far riskier side effects not associated with use of medical marijuana, such as gastrointestinal issues and cardiac damage; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the 17th Texas Silver Haired Legislature urges the 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature to promote evidence-based testing of marijuana in Texas' major medical facilities and their outlying annex medical centers to ensure only safe and effective marijuana products are legalized and to enact laws similar to those in effect in a steadily growing list of states which allow authorized physicians to prescribe and administer marijuana for medical purposes without fear of being prosecuted under state laws enacted to curb the illicit and destructive use of drugs.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Retirement & Aging Committee.

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Don Murphy, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

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Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:

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Mary Collins, Secretary



Committee: Human Services

**Enable training of diagnosed individual plus another until they can safely resume their own care.**

A Resolution To: Address the loss of a viable life style at a time when learning to adjust to a very altered life style from a time in which seniors have been self-sustaining to one of near-complete dependability on others by conducting preparation classes or teaching sessions for self-care in convenient locations in each county in Texas.

WHEREAS, Independent and active seniors are joining a growing population of citizens who are unprepared to continue their life style after a diagnosis of loss of sight or hearing. Many seniors become despondent during these crises as well as those who often have treatable problems, but when neglected lead to more severe loss and even withdrawal from social interaction, and

WHEREAS, Older Texans losing any or all of the three basic senses join others in a growing age-related depression and are forced to seek residency in an already strained Medicaid health system of Assisted Living Facilities, and

WHEREAS, Safe daily care is essential to maintaining a level of health. Continued ability to see, eat, hear, and speak without effort while preserving self-esteem and a general feeling of well-being is the right of every Texan wishing to continue an independent life-style; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the 17<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature encourage and strongly recommend that the 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature increase funding for Medicaid long-term care services to enable the training of such diagnosed individual along with a family member or other caregiver until such a time as they can safely resume their own care.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Human Services Committee.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Mary Pat Smith, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:

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Mary Collins, Secretary



Committee: Health & Human Resources

**Develop And Implement An Emergency Room Basic Bill Of Rights For Patients**

A RESOLUTION TO: Ensure that patients have an opportunity to review their Rights and Responsibilities in even a temporary holding area, since these sometime overlooked patients are often treated for severe trauma or illness and are given little guidance as to the expectations and treatments to which, as designated patients, they may be entitled and must be informed if their waiting time could be longer than two hours.

WHEREAS, Emergency patients are often admitted in severe pain and inordinate stress due to the circumstances which led to their admission, either by ambulance or private vehicle, and are poorly equipped to take care of their personal needs such as cleanliness and sustenance having had no opportunity to prepare for a hospitalization; and

WHEREAS, the goal of Emergency Health Care workers should be to first offer comfort and safety, since the chaos of an emergent situation often precludes these amenities; however, every patient deserves the dignity of being recognized and to be introduced to their caregiver even if they appear to be in a state unable to recognize these needs and must be informed at least hourly of their admission status; and

WHEREAS, many patients are robbed of both identity and dignity in these situations and suffer the embarrassment of their dependency on strangers for privacy, warmth, hygiene, offer of fluid or explanation of why they cannot move, drink or attend to their own basic needs; therefore, and furthermore, no Emergency Patient and/or accompanying caregiver should be discharged without offer of sustenance in an acceptable form to their condition and inquiry as to transportation to a place of their choosing, and name of person to whom they are discharged; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the 17th Texas Silver Haired Legislature urges the 86th Texas Legislature to pass legislation requiring development and employment of a basic Bill of Rights for every patient admitted to emergency health care facilities.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Health & Human Resources Committee.

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Sue Wilson, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

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Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:

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Mary Collins, Secretary

Committee: Criminal Justice

**Hold Companies Selling Reverse Mortgage To The Standard Of Truth In Advertising**

WHEREAS, Texans in financial straits, 62 years of age and older, may apply for a Reverse Mortgage, and

WHEREAS, Television may lead these Texans into making poor decisions when hearing or reading only the enticing side of the reverse mortgage commercials, and

WHEREAS, Property is loaned at only 2/3 of its appraised value, families may lose their Inheritance, and property owner(s) must reside in the home to fully understand the conditions which trigger foreclosure; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED that the 17<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver Haired Legislature urges the 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature to take action to protect its elderly by holding companies selling reverse mortgage to the standard of truth in advertising which would allow these senior citizens to make sound decisions in their waning years of life.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Criminal Justice Committee.

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Bill Bailey, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

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Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:

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Mary Collins, Secretary

By: James t. Hubert, Jr.

No. T053

Committee: Criminal Justice

**Legalize The Recreational Use Of Marijuana.**

WHEREAS, Thirty states and the District of Columbia currently have laws broadly legalizing marijuana in some form. Eight states and the District of Columbia have adopted the most expansive laws legalizing marijuana for recreational use, and

WHEREAS, In 1969, 12% of Americans supported the use of the drug and, today, the majority of Americans agree with legalizing the recreational use of marijuana. Some states have reduced possession of marijuana to a misdemeanor punishable with a fine but not given jail time. Marijuana is not as harmful as tobacco or alcohol, yet for those arrested for possession of marijuana being fined and/or incarcerated seems ridiculous. and

WHEREAS, legalizing marijuana would produce revenue for Texas, reduce illegal sale of the drug, regulate a safer product for the users, and free those presently incarcerated for possession; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the 17<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urge the 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature legalize the recreational use of marijuana.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Criminal Justice Committee.

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Bill Bailey, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:

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Mary Collins, Secretary

Committee: State Affairs

**Repeal Indian Gaming Regulatory Act to Open Casinos in Texas**

A RESOLUTION TO: Provide travel safety, entertainment, revenue and employment for Texas Seniors and Native Americans by enacting legislation that will allow for open casinos on Indian reservations.

WHEREAS, Each year chartered busses haul millions of Texans, many of them seniors, to Oklahoma, New Mexico and Louisiana for social and gaming activities. Billions of dollars of revenue is leaving Texas via various modes of transportation to Oklahoma and Louisiana going to support casinos in these neighboring states, and

WHEREAS, Texas recognizes three Native American tribes: Alabama-Coushatta, Kickapoo, and Tiguano, but prohibits them from sponsoring casinos like Native Americans in neighboring states; and

WHEREAS, the State of Texas Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (1988) prohibits Casino operations in Texas; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 17<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature supports the 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature in lifting the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (IGRA) to grant casino operation in Texas.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the State Affairs Committee.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Irma Cauley, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:

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Mary Collins, Secretary

Committee: Retirement & Aging

**Allow for the Prescribing and Use of Cannabis for Medical Purposes**

A RESOLUTION TO: Expand the medical options available to the general public by revising the Texas drug laws to allow authorized physicians to prescribe cannabis and cannabis containing products.

WHEREAS, Many TSHL senior-citizen constituents with debilitating pain or terminal illnesses could be spared needless suffering from the side effects of various medications and treatments, such as chemotherapy-related nausea and vomiting, and considering that more reliance on medical cannabis might lessen the nation's reliance on opiates, and thereby help alleviate the nation's opiate crisis, we members of the TSHL maintain the time is ripe for Texas to decriminalize the medical use of nature's own safe, effective and economical medication and painkiller, cannabis; and

WHEREAS, The medical use of cannabis by veterans, seniors, and others should be personal, individual decisions made by patients and their licensed health care professionals, and no patient or physician should face criminal charges under our Texas laws merely for using or prescribing medically approved cannabis for such common maladies such as, but not limited to, glaucoma, anxiety, agitation, loss of appetite, PTSD, depression, fibromyalgia, bulimia, epilepsy, and chronic pain; and

WHEREAS, People searching in Texas for relief from debilitating medical conditions, or simply from chronic pain, cannot legally buy medical cannabis here, or they must illegally transport it to Texas from states where it's legal, or they are compelled by Texas laws to add to the nation-wide opiate addiction crisis by relying solely on opiates and other medications that are more dangerous, addictive and expensive than medical cannabis; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 17<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature to acknowledge that the huge accumulation of experience and evidence in other states confirms that cannabis products are safe and effective - and just as lawmakers in 30 other states and the District of Columbia have done for their citizens, we urge our lawmakers to enact laws this year that allow our own Texas citizens to prescribe, purchase, and use various cannabis and cannabis-containing products such as medications and painkillers without being unfairly labeled as criminals under current Texas laws.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Retirement & Aging Committee.

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Don Murphy, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

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Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:

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Mary Collins, Secretary

Committee: Retirement & Aging

**Pass Uniform Adult Guardianship Protective Proceedings Jurisdiction Act**

A RESOLUTION TO: Support the passage of the Uniform Adult Guardianship Protective Proceedings Jurisdiction Act (UAGPPA) to protect incapacitated seniors from extravagant legal costs currently involved in determining the best state to settle a guardianship contest and in transferring guardianships from one state to another to allow incapacitated seniors to live in the state of their choosing and where they will receive the best care.

WHEREAS, Due to the increased mobility of our population, cases involving simultaneous and conflicting jurisdiction over guardianships are also increasing. Transferring a guardianship to another state can require the parties to initiate a duplicative court proceeding in the second state to re-determine incapacity and reappoint a guardian or conservator even when no conflict exists. Obtaining recognition of an out-of-state guardian's authority to sell property or to arrange for a residential placement can be costly, difficult, or impossible. UAGPPA addresses all of these problems, and

WHEREAS, Because the United States has 50-plus guardianship systems, jurisdictional disputes are relatively common. "Snowbirds" who own homes in more than one state are particularly vulnerable, as are senior citizens who have adult children living in multiple states. Similar conflicts can arise between a U.S. state and a foreign country, and

WHEREAS, Although state statutes vary somewhat, a guardian may generally be appointed by the court of a state in which the respondent is domiciled or is physically present. Conflicts can arise when the domicile is uncertain. In some particularly troubling cases, adult children have litigated the guardianship of a parent in two courts of two states for years without a resolution – at great cost to the parent's estate; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 17<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature encourage and strongly recommend that the 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature approve the passage of the Uniform Adult Guardianship Protective Proceedings Act. Already enacted in 43 states, it provides an effective mechanism for resolving multi-jurisdictional disputes.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Retirement & Aging Committee.

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Don Murphy, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

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Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:

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Mary Collins, Secretary

Committee: Health & Human Resources

**Require an FBI Background Check for Nurses Aides in Nursing Homes**

RESOLUTION TO: Require a thorough FBI background check done before nurse aides are certified, which would catch nurse aides who rack up convictions long after they're first certified.

WHEREAS, It has been revealed that the state has certified hundreds of nursing home aides with serious criminal histories; and

WHEREAS, Currently state health officials are only required to do a less-thorough state background check when initially certifying aides, and no new checks for re-certification. These state DPS background checks do not cover any cases that may have happened in another state; and

WHEREAS, An analysis of government data showed that abuse in Texas nursing homes is nearly four times the national average, and violent criminals are often left to care for some of our most vulnerable; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 17<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urge the 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature to instruct HHSC to implement a thorough FBI background check before nurse aides are certified. These checks are to be repeated regularly and cover all criminal cases regarding the individual that may have ever occurred.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Health & Human Resources Committee.

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Sue Wilson, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

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Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:

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Mary Collins, Secretary

Committee: Human Services

**All Health & Human Services (HHS) Communications to Medicaid Beneficiaries be Written at Basic Level**

A RESOLUTION TO: Ask that all HHSC Communications to Medicaid beneficiaries be written at a “basic” level.

WHEREAS, Health Literacy – the ability to obtain, process, and understand basic health information and services to make appropriate decisions – is essential to promote healthy people. Public health systems play a critical role in health literacy, because they can make it easier or more difficult for people to find and use health information, and

WHEREAS, Some individuals are not familiar with medical terms or can’t interpret numbers; and over a third of U.S. adults would have difficulty with common health tasks, such as following directions on a prescription drug label, and

WHEREAS, Communications at the basic level would enable individuals to locate information in text, make low-level inferences, integrate easily identifiable pieces of information; and would be much better written at a 5<sup>th</sup> grade level to avoid misunderstandings and confusion; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the 17<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature recommends that the 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature ask that all HHSC Communications to Medicaid beneficiaries be written at “basic” 5<sup>th</sup> grade level.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Human Services Committee.

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Mary Pat Smith, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:

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Mary Collins, Secretary



Committee: Health & Human Resources

**Increase access to healthcare for seniors via telemedicine.**

A RESOLUTION TO: Increase access to healthcare for seniors in rural and urban medically-underserved areas in Texas, via telemedicine.

WHEREAS, The population of Texas is approximately 28.3 million, the second most populous, and second largest state in America. However, the majority of the rural and urban counties are “medically underserved areas” (MUAs), according to Health Resources and Services Administration. MUAs are “based on the demographics of the entire population in an area compared to national statistics for four health care demand/resource indicators: percentage of elderly population (65+ years), poverty rate, infant mortality rate, ratio of primary care physicians per 1,000 population”; and

WHEREAS, Lack of access to medical care has been well documented. Decreased mobility of the senior population, affordable healthcare, and transportation remain major obstacles which could be corrected by increased use of telemedicine; and

WHEREAS, Several medical facilities in Texas have started using telemedicine and could further enhance their programs by expanding them, if funding becomes available; which would increase access to care, decrease cost of transportation, and improve the general health of Texas citizens; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 17<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature recommends that the 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature instruct Texas Health & Human Services to develop an telemedicine outreach model and provide funding for those institutions and free-standing medical practices that prove capable of using and expanding telemedicine in Texas.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Health & Human Resources Committee.

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Sue Wilson, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

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Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:

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Mary Collins, Secretary



Committee: Human Services

### **Health & Human Services To Provide Info On Treatment Options To Terminal Patients**

A RESOLUTION TO: Provide terminal patients with information and access to treatment options that are under investigation in a clinical trial and not yet approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration (FDA).

WHEREAS, Certain patients, through “compassionate use” programs, are able to access treatment options that are under investigation in a clinical trial and not yet approved by the U.S. Food and Drug Administration; however, accessing programs for terminal patients is arduous and lengthy at a time when a patient cannot afford to wait; and

WHEREAS, The use of available investigational drugs, biological products, and devices is a decision that should be made by the patient with a terminal illness in consultation with the patient’s physician and is not a decision to be made by the government; and

WHEREAS, The 84<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature passed House Bill 21 by Kyle Kacal, sponsored by Senator Bettencourt and signed by the Governor, that provides access to use an investigational drug, biological product, or device with full awareness of the potential risks, benefits, and consequences to the patient with a terminal illness and the patient’s family; however, the public and providers are not generally aware of its existence; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that the 17<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature recommends that the 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature authorize Health and Human Services to make every effort to communicate with the public and health care providers that terminal patients have a right to try treatment options. HHS to provide info on treatment options to terminal patients.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Human Services Committee.

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Mary Pat Smith, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

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Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:

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Mary Collins, Secretary

By: Doris Griffin, Jene Liaci, Nancy O. Hardin, Chris Johnson,  
Jerry Tyson, Ahia Shabaaz

No. T061

Committee: Retirement & Aging

**Support construction of new and preservation of existing affordable housing units**

A RESOLUTION TO: Support more funding for construction of more affordable housing that will benefit low-income senior citizens.

WHEREAS, Fifteen percent (15%) of seniors live below the poverty level and nearly half, (forty-five per cent (45%), are living at two times the poverty level, according to the Kaiser Family Foundation's research on Supplemental Poverty Level data, and

WHEREAS, Rent and mortgage payments are generally among the highest monthly household expenses. Many senior Texans live on reduced or fixed incomes, and in order to afford the increasing construction costs of new and preservation of existing, affordable housing units costs of housing, cut back on other necessities, such as food and medical care; and

WHEREAS, Over the next 13 years, the baby boomer population is expected to increase the number of Texas seniors by 60%, to over 6.5 million; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 17<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature recommends that the 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature that specifically target low-income senior citizens through the allocation of additional tax credit incentives for developers and additional funding for the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Retirement & Aging Committee.

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Don Murphy, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

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Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:

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Mary Collins, Secretary

Committee: Criminal Justice

**Require Financial Institutions to Share Contact Information with APS re fraud**

A RESOLUTION TO: Have legislation that requires financial institutions to share the contact information for their fraud departments with Adult Protective Services, as well as to contact APS when they are aware of a possible fraud situation regarding a senior.

WHEREAS, There have been instances when it is known that fraud is occurring and APS does not have the name or direct number of the person that could intervene at the bank and protect the potential victim's assets, and

WHEREAS, Financial exploitation comes in many forms, ranging from employees, caregivers and even family members who take money and property from the elderly without permission, or checks and cold cash from trusting seniors. Employees who deal directly with seniors in banks are uniquely positioned to detect and prevent financial abuse of this kind. The bank often knows of the issue before APS even knows to get involved, and

WHEREAS, Alert tellers or other bank employees can intervene to protect senior customers by reporting suspect financial exploitation to Adult Protective Services (800) 252-5400; now, therefore be it

RESOLVED, that the 17<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urge the 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature to require financial institutions to share contact information from their fraud departments with Adult Protective Services, as well as to contact APS when they are aware of a possible fraud situation regarding a senior.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Criminal Justice Committee.

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Bill Bailey, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

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Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:

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Mary Collins, Secretary

Committee: Criminal Justice

**Fund The Development Of Multi-Disciplinary Teams In 3 Counties**

A RESOLUTION TO: Fund the development of multi-disciplinary teams in 3 counties to address elder financial abuse and exploitation, at a cost of \$300K.

WHEREAS, The Texas population of those 55+ has grown by 20% since 2012, and Adult Protective Services caseworker staff has decreased by 3.1%. A solution must be made to help solve the numerous case of financial abuse of seniors without taxing the already overloaded APS caseworkers, and

WHEREAS, The average daily caseload of APS caseworkers has increased, and turnover has increased. The average daily caseload is 31.4, an increase of 6.1%; and turnover is 18.7%, an increase of 16.1% over the past 5 years, and

WHEREAS, Because of the above, and because financial exploitation of seniors has taken on so many more forms in recent years, including Foreign Lotteries, Identity Crime, Home Repair scams, and others; and because APS can no longer handle everything that comes their way in a timely manner; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED That the 17<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature ask the 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature to fund the development of multi-disciplinary teams in 3 counties to address elder financial abuse and exploitation, at a cost of \$300K.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Criminal Justice Committee.

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Bill Bailey, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

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Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:

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Mary Collins, Secretary

Committee: Retirement & Aging

**Amend Tax Code To Prevent Cancellation of Property Tax Deferral Without Notice**

A RESOLUTION TO: Prevent an appraisal district from canceling a property tax deferral for someone over the age of 65 until first providing written notice of the cancellation to the individual receiving the deferral.

WHEREAS, The 84<sup>th</sup> session of the Texas Legislature highlighted the need of senior citizens for additional time and notice before the cancellation of their exemptions from certain property taxes and provided additional time for seniors to prove their continued residence on their homestead, requiring the appraisal district to notify them on multiple occasions that their exemptions are to be canceled if they do not respond to a request for proof of residency, and

WHEREAS, Interested parties have noted that the same problem still exists in the question of deferrals of property taxes, allowing seniors to halt payment on their property taxes and defer the payments until the property is no longer considered their homestead, either through relocation, sale, or bequest of the property, and

WHEREAS, if a senior citizen has their deferral erroneously cancelled, it can result in the foreclosure of their homestead, and the same steps taken to safeguard senior citizens from erroneous cancellation of their property tax exemption should be taken to safeguard seniors against erroneous cancellation of their property tax deferrals; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature recommend that the 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature amend the Tax Code to prevent an appraisal district from canceling a property tax deferral for someone over the age of 65 until first providing written notice of the cancellation to the individual receiving the deferral. This notice must include a form on which the individual may indicate if they remain qualified to receive the deferral, and a self-addressed postage-paid envelope with instructions for returning to the appraisal district. The individual will have 60 days from the postmark of the notice to respond, and the deferral may be canceled after the 30<sup>th</sup> day following the end of this 60-day period.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Retirement & Aging Committee.

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Don Murphy, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

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Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:

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Mary Collins, Secretary

Committee: State Affairs

**Provide Assistive Listening Devices to Visitors at the State Capitol**

A RESOLUTION TO: Provide Assistive Listening Devices to Visitors at the State Capitol.

WHEREAS, Many TSHL senior-citizen constituents and other persons with hearing impairments are visitors at the state capitol, and

WHEREAS, The Governor's Committee on People with Disabilities support those with hearing impairments, and

WHEREAS, Persons visiting the state capital should have assistive listening devices as their right to be able to conduct business and fully understand proceedings in the hearing rooms and house and senate chambers, now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 17<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature to provide assistive listening devices for visitors at the Texas state capitol.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the State Affairs Committee.

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Irma Cauley, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

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Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:

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Mary Collins, Secretary



Committee: Health & Human Resources

**Enact Reporting Requirements By Long Term Care Facilities For Any Communicable Diseases**

A RESOLUTION TO: Support reporting requirements for any communicable diseases and especially influenza outbreaks inside long-term care facilities (LTCFs)

WHEREAS, Texas has the third largest elderly population in the U.S., with ten percent of its residents aged 65 or older, and elderly Texans who can no longer live independently because of a serious acute or chronic illness that limits their ability to care for themselves are thus residents of one of Texas' 1000+ LTCFs; and

WHEREAS, anyone living or working in a LTCF is more likely to be exposed to communicable diseases because of the vulnerable health conditions of residents and the close living environment, and communicable diseases such as influenza disproportionately affect the health of vulnerable seniors living in LTCFs — often requiring hospitalization and sometimes leading to death; and

WHEREAS, impacted families should be informed of the flu vaccination coverage of LTCFs and this data must be more readily available to families and consumers. LTCFs should work with public health agencies such as their local public health department, Texas Health and Human Services Commission, Texas Department of State Health Services, and the USDHHS Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality (AHRQ), to improve patient safety in LTCFs. This collaboration can help LTCFs prevent, respond to, and report communicable disease outbreaks such as that of influenza and dangerous multidrug-resistant organisms (MDROs); now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 16<sup>th</sup> Texas Silver-Haired Legislature recommends that the 86<sup>th</sup> Texas Legislature enact reporting requirements by long term care facilities for any communicable diseases, especially flu outbreaks inside these facilities, improved tracking of vaccine coverage inside facilities with both staff and residents, and require greater collaboration between all health care facilities regarding multidrug-resistant organisms.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Health & Human Resources Committee.

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Sue Wilson, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April \_\_, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

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Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:

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Mary Collins, Secretary