

The 17th
Texas Silver-Haired
Legislature 2017 - 2019



LEGISLATIVE REPORT

April 22 – April 26, 2018

Texas State Capitol

Austin, Texas



*Honor the Texas flag:
I pledge allegiance to thee, Texas,
One state under God,
One and indivisible.*

*Representative Debbie Riddle and others authored an amendment to the pledge by House Bill 1034 during the 80th Legislature with the addition of "one state under God."
The revised wording became effective on June 15, 2007.*



The flag was adopted as the state flag when Texas became the 28th state in 1845. As with the flag of the United States, the blue stands for loyalty, the white represents strength, and the red is for bravery.

July 6, 2018

To: Our Honorable Elected Officials

As you begin the work of the 86th Texas Legislature, our prayers are with you. The job you have is so very important to Texans of all ages, and the challenges you face will be many. May God give you extra wisdom during this time.

The Texas Silver-Haired Legislature spent many hours conducting town hall meetings throughout our great State and visiting with people from all walks of life gathering their input on issues facing older Texans now and in the future.

The resolutions we are presenting are a result of taking the information we gathered to our Legislative Session held April 22 -26, 2018, at the State Capitol where, after passing through Legislative Committees, a Legislative Action Committee, and floor debates, forty-eight resolutions were adopted and prioritized.

I am pleased and feel proud to present these resolutions to the Governor, the 86th Texas Senators and Representatives, and the Health and Human Services Commission. This transmittal is mandated and authorized by authority of Senate Concurrent Resolution 37, adopted by the 69th Texas Legislature, and signed by the Governor on April 11, 1985.

TSHL has worked closely with our elected officials for 33 years, and with your support many of our resolutions have become law and benefitted the 5 million older Texans. We ask for your consideration and help again and offer our assistance in any way we can help you.

Sincerely,



Walter Graham

Speaker, TSHL 2017-2019

LEGISLATIVE AUTHORIZATION

Senate Concurrent Resolution 37

69th Texas Legislature

Sponsors: Senator Hugh Parmer and Representative Jerry Clark

WHEREAS, Older Texans are the fastest growing segment of the population with the number of persons over the age of 60 in Texas having increased 32 percent between 1970 and 1980; and

WHEREAS, Many older Texans recognize the need to develop a better understanding of the legislative process through participation in this process of state policy development; and

WHEREAS, It is most appropriate in problem solving to involve those closely related to the problems in order to ensure more effective, lasting solutions; and

WHEREAS, A Silver-Haired Legislature is a model legislative session in which older Texans are elected by their peers to meet at the State Capitol to initiate and debate policy alternatives to deal with the problems that affect them; and

WHEREAS, Silver-Haired Legislatures have been used effectively in other states to inform elderly persons about the legislative process, to serve as a forum where the elderly can discuss policy issues on aging, and to recommend solutions to the problems of older Texans; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED by the Senate of the State of Texas, the House of Representatives concurring, that the Legislature of the State of Texas support the development of a biennial Silver-Haired Legislature in Texas; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That the legislature of the state of Texas allow its chambers and meeting rooms, and other assistance as determined by the committee on House Administration and the Senate Committee on Administration, to be used by the Silver-Haired Legislature at a time that does not interfere with the regular biennial sessions of the legislature, special called sessions, or meeting of interim Legislative Committees; and, be it further

RESOLVED, That recommendations formulated by the Silver-Haired Legislature be submitted to the Governor of the State of Texas, the Texas Legislature, and the Texas Department on Aging at the close of the Silver-Haired Legislative Session.

Passed by 69th Texas Legislature April 3, 1985

W. P. Hobby, President of the Senate

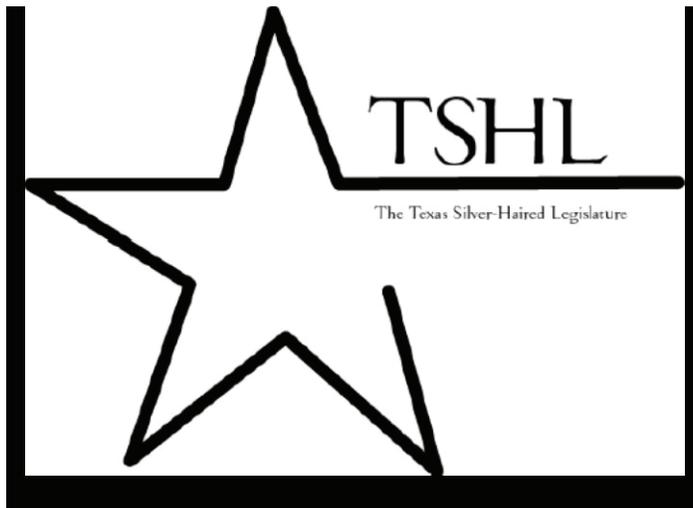
Gib Lewis, Speaker of the House

Signed by Governor Mark White, April 11, 1985

Filed in Office of Secretary of State April 12, 1985

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THE TEXAS SILVER-HAIRED LEGISLATURE WHO WE ARE AND WHAT WE DO

We are volunteers over the age of 60 who have been elected by our peers from 28 regions to serve two-year terms. The Texas Legislature established this senior policy development program in 1985. No State funds have been appropriated for the operation of the Silver-Haired Legislature. We meet in the House of Representatives' Chambers of the Texas Capitol and conduct a non-partisan legislative session in even-numbered years.

HISTORY OF THE SILVER-HAIRED LEGISLATURE

The first Silver-Haired Legislature was organized by the State of Missouri in 1973. The concept has now been adopted in 26 states.

The Texas Silver-Haired Legislature (TSHL) was introduced to the Board of Directors by the Advisory Council of the Texas Department on Aging in 1983 where it was listed as a "legislative priority." A resolution to establish the TSHL was passed by the Board in 1984. The following year, the 69th Texas Legislature adopted Senate Concurrent Resolution #37.

In 1986, planning and implementation was completed by a statewide steering committee together with the Texas Department on Aging Staff, members of the Area Agencies on Aging, and various volunteers. The elected members of the first TSHL met for a five-day training and orientation session in July of 1986. The Secretary of State swore in the first TSHL members on September 29 of that year.

THE TEXAS SILVER-HAIRED LEGISLATURE

Statement of Beliefs

- All Senior Citizens should have the opportunity to achieve dignity and independence.
- Senior Citizens experience unique problems. They have special abilities and talents which result from years of experience.
- Good government is the result of the active participation of informed citizens.
- Being an informed and active voter is the highest responsibility of citizenship.
- Effective and lasting solutions to problems result from involvement of those most closely related to the problems.
- Volunteer representatives elected by their peers and having close contact with their constituents are qualified to discuss issues on aging and recommend solutions to problems of older Texans.

Mission Statement

Older Texans are the fastest growing segment of the population. The Texas Silver-Haired Legislature which was established by Concurrent Resolution of the Texas Senate in April 1985 (Senate Resolution 37 of the 69th Texas Legislature) provides the opportunity for older Texans to solve problems unique to aging. In addition, the Silver-Haired Legislature can make Texas an even better place for all citizens through programs of education, discussion, and encouragement of the involvement of older Texans in legislative and governmental affairs.

Vision Statement

The vision of the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature is that the applied wisdom, energy, and experience of aging will improve the lives of all Texans through education, knowledge, and involvement in legislation and governmental affairs.

TOP 10 RESEARCHERS

17th “TOP TEN” TSHL PRIORITY RESOLUTIONS

The 17th TSHL passed a total of 48 resolutions during the Legislative Session, April 22 – April 26, 2017, at the Texas State Capitol. The resolutions that follow ask the 86th Texas Legislature for specific actions to benefit older Texans. The 17th TSHL membership selected these “Top Ten” priorities as those most important to older Texans statewide.

* * * * *

Listed in Ranked order:

#1

By: Scott Christensen, Nancy Byler, Sherry Hubbard, Irene Andrews, R01
Laura Borchardt, and Paul Stempko

Increase and Maintain the Financial Strength of the Teacher Retirement System (TRS) Defined- Benefit (DB) Pension Plan

RESOLVED, That the 17th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature strongly urges the 86th 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.

#2

By: Jetta Roberts, Albert Campbell, and Alicia deJong-Davis R16

Preserve or Increase Funding for Home-Delivered Meals

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

#3

By: Betty Lee Streckfuss, Paul Stempko, Sue Wilson, and Mary Pat Smith R24

Promote Evidence-Based Testing of Cannabis and Allow Licensed Physicians to Prescribe Medical Cannabis without Fear of Prosecution

RESOLVED, That the 17th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 86th Texas Legislature to promote evidence-based testing of cannabis in Texas's major medical facilities and their outlying annex medical centers to ensure only safe and effective cannabis 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 cannabis for medical purposes without fear of being prosecuted under state laws enacted to curb the illicit and destructive use of drugs.

#4

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

R03

Reform TRS-Care by Increasing the State’s Contribution Rate (Committed Funding)

RESOLVED, That the 17th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature strongly urges the 86th 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.

#5

By: Jetta Roberts, Alan Abraham, and Alicia deJong-Davis

R04

Increase the Personal Needs Allowance for Medicaid Residents in Nursing Homes

RESOLVED, That the 17th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature recommends that the 86th Texas Legislature alleviates 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.

#6

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

R12

Enhance Criminal Degree and Fines for Those Who Perpetrate Internet Fraud Against Seniors

RESOLVED, That the 17th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature recommends that the 86th Texas Legislature protects the lifetime savings of elder adults by enhancing the criminal levels, fines, and penalties on those who target Texas citizens who are over age 60.

#7

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

R02

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

RESOLVED, That the 17th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature strongly urges the 86th Texas Legislature to reject any, and all, proposed legislation for conversion of the TRS DB (defined- benefit) Plan to a DC (defined-contribution) Plan, for both financial and operational reasons

#8

By: James T. Hubert, Jr.

R11

Hold Companies Selling Reverse Mortgages to the Standard of Truth in Advertising

RESOLVED, That the 17th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 86th Texas Legislature to take action to protect its elderly by holding companies selling reverse mortgages to the standard of truth in advertising by including a disclaimer on the costs and risks associated to seniors.

#9

By: Ahia Shabaaz

R43

Increase Access to Healthcare for Seniors Via Telemedicine

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

#10

By: Mona Bailey, Rhonda Rogers, Scott Christensen, Ted Hubert,
Linda Parrish, Barbara Aydlett, Irma Cauley, and Al Campbell

R46

Require an FBI Background Check for Nurses' Aides and LVN's in Nursing Homes, Assisted Living Facilities, and Home Health Companies

RESOLVED, That the 17th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 86th Texas Legislature to instruct Texas Health and Human Services (HHS) to implement an FBI background check before nurses' aides and LVN's are certified. These checks are to be repeated regularly and cover felonies, assaults, crimes of moral turpitude, sexual assaults, and violent crimes within the last 5 years.

SUMMARY OF 48 SOLUTIONS

RESOLUTIONS ADOPTED BY TSHL APRIL, 2018

Res No.	RESOLUTION ADOPTED BY 17 TH TSHL LEGISLATIVE SESSION FOR THE 86 TH TEXAS LEGISLATURE TOP 10 RESOLUTIONS BOLDED	Author(s)
R01	Increase and Maintain the Financial Strength of the Teacher Retirement System (TRS) Defined- Benefit (DB) Pension Plan	Christensen, Byler, Hubbard, Andrews, Borchardt, Stempko
R02	Reject Conversion of TRS Pension from Defined Benefit (DB) to Defined Contribution (DC) Plan	Christensen, Byler, Hubbard, Andrews, Borchardt, Stempko
R03	Reform TRS-Care by Increasing the State's Contribution Rate (Committed Funding)	Christensen, Byler, Hubbard, Andrews, Borchardt, Stempko
R04	Increase the Personal Needs Allowance for Medicaid Residents in Nursing Homes	Roberts, Abraham, deJong-Davis
R05	Increase Funding for the Adult Safety Net Immunization Program to Add the Influenza Vaccine	Parrish
R06	Pass Legislation to Determine Future of State-Supported Living Centers	Parrish, Garnett
R07	Amend Texas Penal Code to Include and Penalize Undue Influence	Abraham, Garnett, Roberts
R08	Support Public Policy and Initiatives to Expand Rural Texas' Broadband Infrastructure	Merrick
R09	Repeal the Emergency Service District (ESD) Maximum Property Tax Rate by Constitutional Amendment	Christensen, Arterbury
R10	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	Arterbury, Tyler, Christensen, Hubert, Henderson
R11	Hold Companies Selling Reverse Mortgages to the Standard of Truth in Advertising	Hubert
R12	Enhance Criminal Degree and Fines for Those Who Perpetrate Internet Fraud Against Seniors	Peters, Butler, Saenz, Wilson
R13	Increase Funding for the Examination, Exploration, and Support for Texas Desalination	Butler, Porter, Saenz, Peters
R14	Support Volunteer Programs That Engage Seniors in Quality of Life Activities	Peters, Smith
R15	Develop Alternative Procedures for the Elderly in Post Disaster Declaration Areas	Anderson

R16	Preserve or Increase Funding for Home-Delivered Meals	Roberts, Campbell, deJong-Davis
R17	Pass Legislation that Regulates the Payday and Auto Title Lending Industry in Texas	Parrish, Johnson
R18	Redistricting Reform Using an Independent Nonpartisan Commission	Campbell, Whiteside, Parrish, Hubert, Griffen, Garza, Coycault, Byler, Aydlett, Abraham
R19	Develop and Implement an Emergency Room Basic Bill of Rights for Patients	Streckfuss
R20	Use Alternative Funding to Reduce the Gap in Medicaid Nursing Home Reimbursement	Wilson, Aydlett, Parrish, Peters
R21	Offer a Grant to Fund the Development of Multi-Disciplinary Teams in Texas	Bailey
R22	Require Financial Institutions to Share Contact Information with APS re: Fraud	Bailey
R23	Protect Seniors from Gang and Criminal Combinations by Changing the Texas Penal Code	Coycault, Campbell
R24	Promote Evidence-Based Testing of Cannabis and Allow Licensed Physicians to Prescribe Medical Cannabis without Fear of Prosecution	Streckfuss, Stempko, Wilson, Smith
R25	End the Phase Out Law and Reinstate Free Fishing Licenses for Texans 65 and Older	Hubert
R26	Pass Uniform Adult Guardianship Protective Proceedings Jurisdiction Act	Bailey
R27	Support Construction of New and Preservation of Existing Affordable Housing Units	Griffin, Liaci, Hardin, Johnson, Tyson, Shabaaz
R28	Amend Tax Code to Prevent Cancellation of Property Tax Deferral Without Notice	Bailey
R29	Support the HHSC Prioritization of Recruitment and Retention of Medicaid Community Attendants by Increasing Funding	Parrish, Smith
R30	Develop Family Caregiver Training for Families of Seniors and People with Disabilities	Garnett
R31	Commission a "Service Needs" Study of Texans over 60 by HHS	Garnett
R32	Health & Human Services to Provide Information on Treatment Options to Terminal Patients	Shabaaz
R33	Require Headlight Adjustment to Be Made in State Inspections	Coycault, Campbell

R34	Continue Funding DKR Texas Alzheimer's Initiative Supporting Texas Alzheimer's Research and Care Consortium	Wilson, Aydlett, Shabaaz, Smith, Merrick, Sandoval, Stempko, Anderson
R35	All Health & Human Services (HHS) Communications to Medicaid Beneficiaries Be Written at Basic Level	Bailey
R36	Establish the Quality Community Attendant Retention and Outreach Council	Parrish
R37	Form a Task Force to Study the Need and Solutions for Housing for LGBT Seniors in Texas	Parrish, Aydlett, Stempko
R38	Establish a Texas Guardianship Task Force to Recommend Reform	Parrish
R39	Add Private Certified Nursing Homes to the Loanstar Revolving Loan Program	Butler
R40	Ensure Adequate Funding for Senior Corps Programs in Texas	Abraham, Smith
R41	Rebuild the Texas Department on Aging	Porter
R42	Establish Full-Practice Authority for Advance Practice Registered Nurses (APRN)	Abraham, Adylett, Roberts, Smith, Streckfuss
R43	Increase Access to Healthcare for Seniors Via Telemedicine	Shabaaz
R44	Enact Reporting Requirements by Long-Term Care Facilities for Any Communicable Diseases	Graham
R45	Provide Assistive Listening Devices to Visitors at the State Capitol	Smith, Parrish, Streckfuss
R46	Require an FBI Background Check for Nurses' Aides and LVN's in Nursing Homes, Assisted Living Facilities, and Home Health Companies	Bailey, Rogers, Christensen, Hubert, Parrish, Aydlett, Cauley, Campbell
R47	Establish the Texas Transition and Integration of Care Initiative within LCA	Streckfuss
R48	Restore Funding of the Texas Lifespan Respite Care Program (TLRCP)	Wilson, Shabaaz, Sandoval, Stempko, Aydlett, Ewing, Timmer

ADOPTED RESEARCH SOLUTIONS

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

R01

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 17th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature strongly urges the 86th 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 23rd, 2018, by the Education Committee.



Trini Garza, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 24th, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:



Mary Collins, Secretary

Irene Andrews, Laura Borchardt, and Paul Stempko

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 17th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature strongly urges the 86th Texas Legislature to reject any, and all, proposed legislation for conversion of the TRS DB (defined-benefit) Plan to a DC (defined-contribution) Plan, for both financial and operational reasons.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 23rd, 2018, by the Education Committee.



Trini Garza, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 24th, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Walter C. Graham,

ATTEST:



Mary Collins, Secretary

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

R03

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, 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

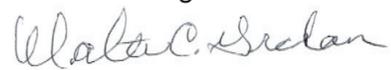
WHEREAS, The State solved \$1.6 billion+ of the three shortfalls with one-time fixes rather than legislate a sufficient State-funding rate, and TRS-Care faces up to a \$700 million shortfall for the next biennium. Retirees and employees contributing in advance of retirement are concerned: "Will TRS-Care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

RESOLVED, That the 17th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature strongly urges the 86th 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 23rd, 2018, by the Education Committee.


Trini Garza, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 24th, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.


Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:


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 alleviates 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 23rd, 2018, by the Health & Human Resources Committee.


Sue Wilson, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 24th, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.


Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:


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 increases 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 23rd, 2018, by the Health & Human Resources Committee.



Sue Wilson, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 24th, 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 72nd 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 17th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 86th Texas Legislature to pass legislation similar to HB 7 of the 72nd 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 23rd, 2018, by the Health & Human Resources Committee.


Sue Wilson, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 24th, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.


Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:


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 a 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 23rd, 2018, by the Criminal Justice Committee.



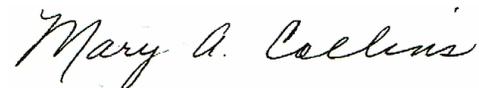
Bill Bailey, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 24th, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:



Mary Collins, Secretary

Committee: Rural - Urban

Support Public Policy and 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 17th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature recommends that the 86th Texas Legislature passes 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; opioid-addiction recovery; news reading services; 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 23rd, 2018, by the Rural-Urban Committee.



Ken Arterbury, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 24th, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:



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 17th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 86th 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 23rd, 2018, by the State Affairs Committee.



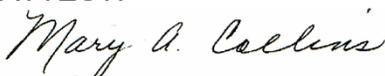
Irma Cauley, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 25th, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:



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 tax liability by up to seven times or .4298, 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)); and

WHEREAS, No taxing entity shall be allowed to use the Chapter Nine Bankruptcy according to federal law 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 17th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature recommends that the 86th Texas Legislature protects 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 23rd, 2018, by the State Affairs Committee.



Irma Cauley, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 25th, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:



Mary Collins, Secretary

By: James T Hubert, Jr.

R11

Committee: Criminal Justice

Hold Companies Selling Reverse Mortgages to the Standard of Truth in Advertising

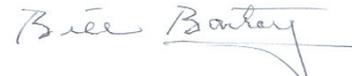
WHEREAS, Senior Texans, 62 years of age and older, may apply for a Reverse Mortgage, and

WHEREAS, Television and other media 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 17th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 86th Texas Legislature to take action to protect its elderly by holding companies selling reverse mortgages to the standard of truth in advertising by including a disclaimer on the costs and risks associated to seniors.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 24th, 2018, by the Criminal Justice Committee.



Bill Bailey, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 25th, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:



Mary Collins, Secretary

Committee: Criminal Justice

Enhance Criminal Degree and Fines for Those Who Perpetrate Internet Fraud Against Seniors

A RESOLUTION TO: Enhance one criminal degree, fines, and penalties with an area of special designation for the perpetrator of the crime of internet fraud against senior citizens.

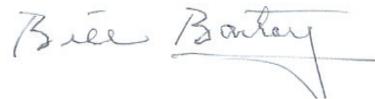
WHEREAS, Over a third of Americans aged 65 and older use the internet on a daily basis and costly internet fraud is on the rise in Texas with technologically inexperienced seniors disproportionately targeted; and

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 17th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature recommends that the 86th Texas Legislature protects the lifetime savings of elder adults by enhancing the criminal levels, fines, and penalties on those who target Texas citizens who are over age 60.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 24th, 2018, by the Criminal Justice Committee.



Bill Bailey, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 25th, 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.

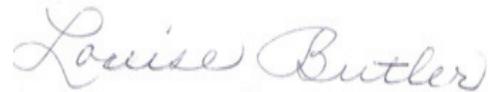
WHEREAS, By 2020 Texas will need 600,000 acre-feet of water per year in just the Rio Grande Valley alone to satisfy our fast-growing and aging population. More groundwater is being used than replenished drawing down the state's major aquifers; and

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

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 23rd, 2018, by the Utilities & Natural Resources Committee.



Louise Butler, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 25th, 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, lyrics, and illustration.

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 17th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 86th Texas Legislature to support public programs that enlist volunteers to engage seniors, both in the general public and in incarcerating facilities, in artistic endeavors including, but not limited to, oral storytelling, memoirs, lyrics, and artistic illustration in order to improve their quality of life and uncover connections otherwise lost.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 23rd, 2018, by the Human Services Committee.



Alan Abraham, Acting Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 25th, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:



Mary Collins, Secretary

By: Debra Anderson

R15

Committee: Human Services

Develop 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 one-third of Houston and the surrounding areas, as well as major portions of the Golden Triangle, 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 to 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 17th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 86th 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 and advertise alternative procedures for eligibility determination and the acquisition of assistance for the elderly and/or medically frail.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 23rd, 2018, by the Human Services Committee.



Alan Abraham, Acting Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 25th, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:



Mary Collins, Secretary

Committee: Human Services

Preserve or Increase Funding for Home-Delivered Meals

A RESOLUTION TO: Ensure that funding at all levels of the State government is increased for meals that are delivered to seniors' 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-delivery of healthy meals 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 (The fastest growing part of the Texas senior population is the 85 and older segment); now, therefore, be it

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

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 23rd, 2018, by the Human Services Committee.


Alan Abraham, Acting Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 25th, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.


Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:


Mary Collins, Secretary

By: Linda Parrish and Paula Johnson

R17

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 than 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 passes legislation that regulates the Payday and Auto Title Lending Industry throughout the State of Texas.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 24th, 2018, by the State Affairs Committee.



Irma Cauley, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 25th, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:



Mary Collins, Secretary

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

R18

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 institutionalizes 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 17th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature calls upon the 86th Texas Legislature to enact redistricting legislation to provide for a constitutional amendment or the necessary legislation in order to use 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 23rd, 2018, by the State Affairs Committee.



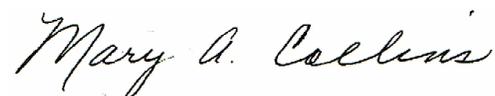
Irma Cauley, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 25th, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:



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 fluids, or explanation of why they cannot move, drink, or attend to their own basic needs; 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 23rd, 2018, by the Health & Human Resources Committee.



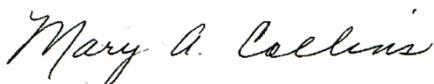
Sue Wilson, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 25th, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:



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 alternative funding options to improve quality of care and quality of life of residents.

WHEREAS: There is a reported \$27 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 \$27 per patient day reimbursement gap prevents Medicaid nursing home providers from being able to make needed renovations to existing buildings; upgrade medical equipment; increase direct-care staffing levels, staff pay, 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 direct-care staffing, capital upgrades which positively impact the residents, and programs to improve quality of care and quality of life of elders in Texas's nursing homes; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED That the 17th Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 86th Texas Legislature to use funding options to reduce the \$27 per patient day gap in Medicaid nursing home reimbursement.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 23rd, 2018, by the Health & Human Resources Committee.



Sue Wilson, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 25th, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:



Mary Collins, Secretary

Committee: Criminal Justice

Offer a Grant to Fund the Development of Multi-Disciplinary Teams in Texas

A RESOLUTION TO: Offer a grant to fund the development of multi-disciplinary teams in Texas to address elder financial abuse and exploitation, at a cost of approximately \$300K.

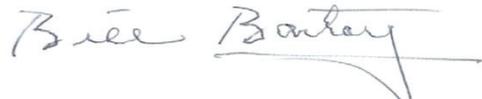
WHEREAS, The Texas population of those 55+ has grown by 20% since 2012, and Adult Protective Services' caseworker staff has decreased by 3.1%. A solution must be made to help solve the numerous cases of financial abuse of seniors without taxing the already overloaded APS caseworkers, and

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 17th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature asks the 86th Texas Legislature to offer a grant to fund the development of multi-disciplinary teams in Texas to address elder financial abuse and exploitation at a cost of approximately \$300K.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 23rd, 2018, by the Criminal Justice Committee.



Bill Bailey, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 25th, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:



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 to 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 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 17th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 86th 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 23rd, 2018, by the Criminal Justice Committee.



Bill Bailey, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 26th, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:



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 of individuals involved in crime as a group. [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: Known 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 17th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 86th Texas Legislature to modify Title 2, Chapter 7 of the Texas Penal Code to require all individual members of groups involved in criminal activity be accountable for their involvement.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 23rd, 2018, by the Criminal Justice Committee.



Bill Bailey, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 25th, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:



Mary Collins, Secretary

Committee: Retirement & Aging

Promote Evidence-Based Testing of Cannabis and Allow Licensed Physicians to Prescribe Medical Cannabis without Fear of Prosecution

A RESOLUTION TO: Allow authorized licensed physicians to prescribe cannabis 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 illnesses such as pain and nausea produced by chemotherapy and/or radiation used for treatment of many illnesses related to malignancies show great benefit from the use of medical cannabis in a safe and effective treatment plan controlled by state law, 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 as, but not limited to, glaucoma, anxiety, agitation, loss of appetite, PTSD, depression, fibromyalgia, bulimia, epilepsy, and chronic pain; and

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

RESOLVED, That the 17th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 86th Texas Legislature to promote evidence-based testing of cannabis in Texas’s major medical facilities and their outlying annex medical centers to ensure only safe and effective cannabis 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 cannabis 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 23rd, 2018, by the Retirement & Aging Committee.

Don Murphy, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 25, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:

Mary Collins, Secretary

By: James T. Hubert, Jr

R25

Committee: Retirement & Aging

End the Phase Out Law and Reinstate Free Fishing Licenses for Texans 65 and Older

A RESOLUTION TO: Reinstate a free fishing license to Texas residents 65 years old and older as provided prior to 1995.

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

WHEREAS, In 1995, the Texas governor signed into law, HB1785, phasing out this program and placing 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 licenses, 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's senior citizens, and

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

RESOLVED, That the 17th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature requests that the 86th Texas Legislature reinstates 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 licenses to Texas's senior citizens 65 years of age or older.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 23rd, 2018, by the Retirement & Aging Committee.



Don Murphy, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 25, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:



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 relatives 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 relatives have litigated the guardianship of a family member 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 17th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature strongly recommends that the 86th Texas Legislature approves 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 24th, 2018, by the Retirement & Aging Committee.



Don Murphy, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 25, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:



Mary Collins, Secretary

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

R27

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, 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 17th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature recommends that the 86th Texas Legislature allocates additional tax-credit incentives for developers and additional funding for the Texas Department of Housing and Community Affairs that specifically targets low-income senior citizens.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 23rd, 2018, by the Retirement & Aging Committee.



Don Murphy, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 25, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:



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 cancelling a property tax deferral for someone over the age of 65 without first providing written notice of the cancellation to the individual receiving the deferral.

WHEREAS, The 84th 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 by requiring the appraisal district to notify them on multiple occasions that their exemptions are to be cancelled 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 senior citizens have their deferrals erroneously cancelled, it can result in the foreclosure of their homesteads, 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 17th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature recommends that the 86th Texas Legislature amends the Tax Code to prevent an appraisal district from cancelling a property tax deferral for someone over the age of 65 without first providing written notice with return receipt requested of the cancellation to the individual receiving the deferral. This notice must include a form on which the individuals 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 individuals will have 60 days from the postmark of the notice to respond, and the deferral may be cancelled after the 30th day following the end of this 60-day period.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 23rd, 2018, by the Retirement & Aging Committee.



Don Murphy, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 25, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:



Mary Collins, Secretary

By: Linda Parrish and Mary Pat Smith

R29

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

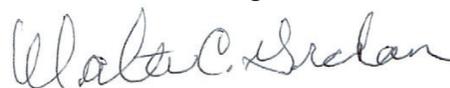
RESOLVED, That the 17th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 86th Texas Legislature to support the HHSC prioritization of the Recruitment and Retention of Medicaid Community Attendants by increasing funding for wages to \$15 per hour and benefits.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 24th, 2018, by the Human Services Committee.



Alan Abraham, Acting Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 25, 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 and People with Disabilities

A RESOLUTION TO: Instruct Health and Human Services 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

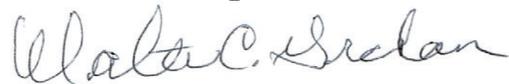
RESOLVED, That the 17th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature encourages and strongly recommends that the 86th Texas Legislature instructs HHS to develop an ongoing, proactive family care-giver training initiative focused on preventing out-of-home facility placement due to problematic behavioral challenges 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 24th, 2018, by the Human Services Committee.



Alan Abraham, Acting Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 26th, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:



Mary Collins, Secretary

Committee: Human Services

Commission a “Service Needs” Study of Texans over 60 by HHS

A RESOLUTION TO: Recommend the Texas Legislature instruct Texas Health and Human Services (HHS) to commission a study of the unique support and service needs of Texans over the age of 60.

WHEREAS; Over the last decade, the Texas Legislature has not responded to community cries to re-create 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 17th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature encourages and strongly recommends that the 86th Texas Legislature instructs HHS to commission a study of Texas’s seniors and the unique support and service needs of their families and publish a plan of response.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 24th, 2018, by the Human Services Committee.



Alan Abraham, Acting Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 25, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:



Mary Collins, Secretary

Committee: Human Services

Health & Human Services to Provide Information 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 FDA; 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 84th 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 17th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature recommends that the 86th Texas Legislature authorizes Health and Human Services to make every effort to communicate with the public and health care providers that terminal patients have a right to be made aware of treatment options. HHS is to provide information on treatment options to terminal patients.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 24th, 2018, by the Human Services Committee.



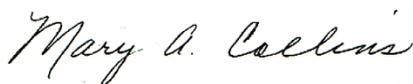
Alan Abraham, Acting Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 25, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:



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 manufacturers' standards.

WHEREAS: Many drivers, including seniors, have difficulty driving at night because of poorly adjusted headlights which often results 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 unsafe conditions for other drivers especially seniors who often have various eyesight problems which are increased by glaring maladjusted headlights; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the 17th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature requests the 86th Texas Legislature requires 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 23rd, 2018, by the Retirement & Aging Committee.



Don Murphy, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 25, 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

R34

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 17th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 86th 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 23rd, 2018, by the Retirement & Aging Committee.



Don Murphy, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 25, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:



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 HHS 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 cannot 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 5th grade level to avoid misunderstandings and confusion; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the 17th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature recommends that the 86th Texas Legislature asks that all HHS communications to Medicaid beneficiaries be written at “basic” 5th grade level.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 24th, 2018, by the Human Services Committee.



Alan Abraham, Acting Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 26th, 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 17th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 86th Texas Legislature to direct Health and Human Services 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 HHS including budget and legislative recommendations for the Governor and the Texas Legislature.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 24th, 2018, by the Human Services Committee.



Alan Abraham, Acting Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 26, 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. anti-discrimination 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 17th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 86th Texas Legislature to form a Task Force, consisting of over 50% 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 23rd, 2018, by the Retirement & Aging Committee.



Don Murphy, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 26, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:



Mary Collins, Secretary

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 establishes 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 23rd, 2018, by the Retirement & Aging Committee.



Don Murphy, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 26, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:



Mary Collins, Secretary

By: Louise Butler

R39

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 extends its list of qualified recipients of the Loanstar Revolving Loan Program to include all certified nursing homes.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 24th, 2018, by the Human Services Committee.



Alan Abraham, Acting Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 26, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:



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; and

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; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 17th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 86th Texas Legislature to authorize Health and Human Services 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 24th, 2018, by the Human Services Committee.


Alan Abraham, Acting Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 26, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.


Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:


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 76th 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 tremendously 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 17th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 86th 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 24th, 2018, by the State Affairs Committee.



Irma Cauley, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 26, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:



Mary Collins, Secretary

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); and

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; and

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; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 17th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature encourages and strongly recommends that the 86th Texas Legislature amends 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 24th, 2018, by the Health & Human Resources Committee.


Sue Wilson, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 26, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.


Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:


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, and 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. Adequate funding would increase access to care, decrease cost of transportation, and improve the general health of Texas citizens; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 17th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature recommends that the 86th Texas Legislature instructs Texas Health & Human Services to develop a 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 24th, 2018, by the Health & Human Resources Committee.



Sue Wilson, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 26, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:



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 twelve 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 17th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature recommends that the 86th Texas Legislature enacts 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 greater collaboration among all health care facilities regarding multidrug-resistant organisms.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 24th, 2018, by the Health & Human Resources Committee.


Sue Wilson, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 26, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.


Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:


Mary Collins, Secretary

By: Mary Pat Smith, Linda Parrish, and Betty Lee Streckfuss

R45

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 Capitol 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 17th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 86th Texas Legislature to provide assistive listening devices for visitors at the Texas State Capitol.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 23rd, 2018, by the State Affairs Committee.



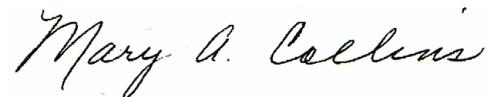
Irma Cauley, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 26, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:



Mary Collins, Secretary

Committee: Health & Human Resources

Require an FBI Background Check for Nurses' Aides and LVN's in Nursing Homes, Assisted Living Facilities, and Home Health Companies

RESOLUTION TO: Require a thorough FBI background check done before nurses' aides and LVN's are certified, which would catch nurses' 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 LVN's 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 and similar facilities 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 17th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature urges the 86th Texas Legislature to instruct Texas Health and Human Services (HHS) to implement an FBI background check before nurses' aides and LVN's are certified. These checks are to be repeated regularly and cover felonies, assaults, crimes of moral turpitude, sexual assaults, and violent crimes within the last 5 years.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 23rd, 2018, by the Health & Human Resources Committee.


Sue Wilson, Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 26, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.


Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:


Mary Collins, Secretary

Committee: Human Services

Establish the Texas Transition and Integration of Care Initiative within LCA

A RESOLUTION TO: Establish “The Texas Transition and Integration of Care Initiative” of health care professionals within the Legislative Committee on Aging. The purpose is to develop and adopt guidelines for the transition and integration of care, as is found in other states, for the betterment of patient care.

WHEREAS, “Transition and integration of care” includes patients from primary care to specialty physicians, and from one facility to another. In uncoordinated facility transitions, the patient and caregivers may be unknown, have no knowledge of the next facility or professional staff, and may be unaware of existing diagnoses plans of care or patient wishes; and

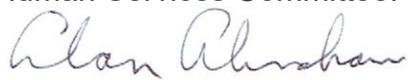
WHEREAS, Uncoordinated transitions between patient, family, and health care providers may lead to crisis situations, such as worsening conditions and untreated existing yet unassociated problems, such as gastric upset or even ulcers from improper care; and

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
7. Shared accountability across providers and organization, and
8. Integration of all involved services to be provided to bring cohesive care; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, That the 17th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature recommends the 86th Texas Legislature authorizes the development of such an initiative within the LCA. Input from health care professionals, state long-term care ombudsman, and senior advocates will be sought to ensure the safe and seamless transition and integration of care to Texas’ seniors.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 24th, 2018, by the Human Services Committee.


Alan Abraham, Acting Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 26th, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.


Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:


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 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 86th Texas Legislature to restore \$500,000 in annual General Revenue funding (\$1.0 million in the biennium) for the Texas Lifespan Respite Care Program to provide desperately needed hours of respite to Texas' unpaid family caregivers.

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 24th, 2018, by the Human Services Committee.



Alan Abraham, Acting Chairman

PASSED AND APPROVED on April 26, 2018, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.



Walter C. Graham, Speaker

ATTEST:



Mary Collins, Secretary



The 17th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature

Consent Resolutions

“Resolves”

During the Texas Silver-Haired Legislative session, our members take time to express their thanks to groups and individuals who provide extraordinary assistance and support. The official record of our expressions of thanks are found in the Consent Resolutions. The official “Resolve” of these Resolutions are listed herein as the official record.

CR-1 Senior Day at the Capitol

RESOLVED, That the 17th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature requests that the 86th Texas Legislature proclaims February 12, 2019, as Senior Day in Texas and urge that the contributions and accomplishments of older Texans be celebrated and commemorated with appropriate ceremonies by the people of Texas at the State Capitol

CR-2 Tribute to the 16th TSHL Officers

RESOLVED, That all members of the 17th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature hereby pay tribute to the officers of the 16th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature and express our appreciation and gratitude for their commitment and dedication in providing able leadership during their terms of office and being key advocates for older Texans.

CR-3 Appreciation to the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature Foundation

RESOLVED, That the members of the 17th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature express our appreciation to the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature Foundation and highly commend its Board and Officers for outstanding efforts, dedication and service since 1986.

CR-4 Appreciation to the Texas Association of Area Agencies on Aging

RESOLVED, That the 17th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature expresses gratitude to the Texas Association of Area Agencies on Aging and to the individual staff members who have devoted time and effort to support the activities of TSHL elections, pre-orientation training, and T4A Resource Workbooks, and its encouragement of the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature in carrying out the mission of advocacy for older Texans as authorized by Senate Concurrent Resolution 37 of the 69th Texas Legislature.

CR-5 Appreciation to Texas Department of Health and Human Services

RESOLVED, That the 17th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature expresses gratitude and appreciation for the guidance and confidence shown by HHS in its support of the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature in our efforts to carry on the responsible mission of advocacy for older Texans.

CR-6 Appreciation to David Saucedo, House Sergeant At Arms

RESOLVED, That the 17th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature expresses its deep and respectful gratitude to David Saucedo, House Sergeant at Arms, and to his staff, for the help and cooperation given so readily and efficiently to the 16th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature and further, leading up to and during the TSHL's use of the House Chambers and meeting rooms for the conduct of its current Legislative Session.

CR-7 Appreciation to the Texas Legislative Committee on Aging

RESOLVED, That the 17th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature expresses its appreciation for the continued leadership, vision of the Texas Legislature and the governors, and to committee members: Senator Donna Campbell, Chair; Representative Toni Rose; Representative J. D. Sheffield; Senator Eddie Lucio, Jr.; Betty Lee Streckfuss, R.N; and Ben Dickerson, PhD.

CR-8 Appreciation to Mr. Kirk Overbey--Parliamentarian

RESOLVED, That the members of the 17th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature express their appreciation to Mr. Kirk Overbey for his generous donation of time, training and expertise to the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

CR-9 Tribute to the Austin Police Department's Motorcycle Brigade

RESOLVED, That the 17th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature honors all of those brave members of the Motorcycle Unit Division of the Austin Police Department for their outstanding service.

CR-10 Organization of the 17th TSHL Executive Committee

RESOLVED, That the Executive Committee of the 17th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature is composed of representatives as shown on Appendix A of this Consent Resolution.

CR-11 Organization of the 17th TSHL Standing Committees

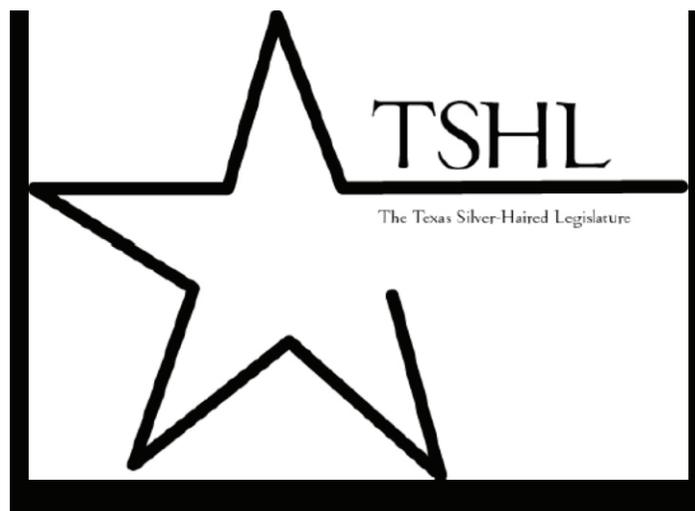
RESOLVED, That said 17th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature establishes the following Legislative Issues Committees and Administrative Committees composed of the legislators as shown on Appendices B & C.

CR-12 Organization of the 17th TSHL Special Committees

RESOLVED, That the 17th Silver-Haired Legislature acknowledges with gratitude these special committees and the leadership and vision of their members in carrying out the duties of their respective studies and programs as shown in Appendix D.

CR-13 Appreciation for the 86th Texas Legislature

RESOLVED, That all members of the 17th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature wish to express our deepest appreciation and gratitude to the 86th Texas Legislature for the encouragement and cooperation in sharing the House Chambers and meeting rooms with the 17th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature during its Legislative Sessions, April 22-26, 2018.



APPENDICES

APPENDIX A

APPENDIX B

APPENDIX C

APPENDIX D

Executive Committee

Administrative Committees

Legislative Issues Committees

Special Committees

APPENDIX A

The 17th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature

2017 – 2019

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

OFFICERS

Speaker	Walter Graham	West Central
Speaker Pro Tem	Mona Bailey	Tarrant County
Deputy Speaker Pro Tem	Joe Henderson	Texoma
Secretary	Mary Collins	West Central Texas
Comptroller	Rhonda Rogers	Ark-Tex

ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Communications	Sherry Hubbard	Concho Valley
Election & Credentials	Barbara Aydlett	Heart of Texas
Finance	Wayne Merrill	Concho Valley
Legislative Action	Linda Parrish	Capital
Operations	Ted Hubert	Central Texas

LEGISLATIVE ISSUES COMMITTEE CHAIRS

Criminal Justice	Bill Bailey	Tarrant
Education	Trini Garza	Dallas
Health & Human Resources	Sue Wilson	Capital
Human Services	Mary Pat Smith	Capital
Insurance	Richard Garnett	Tarrant
Retirement & Aging	Don Murphy	Central Texas
Rural-Urban	Ken Arterbury	Texoma
State Affairs	Irma Cauley	Brazos Valley
Utilities & Natural Resources	Louise Butler	Lower Rio Grande

DISTRICT REPRESENTATIVES

Jerry Tyson	Bexar	James Hitt	North Central
Frances G. Morrow	Coastal Bend	Alan Abraham	Panhandle
Elgin Davis	Deep East Texas	Pat Porter	Permian Basin
Charlotte Parks	East Texas	Tito Camacho	Rio Grande
Polo LaCoste	Houston-Galveston	Mary Nixon	South East Texas
Betty Streckfuss	Harris	Jane Blay	South Plains

THE 17TH TSHL ADMINISTRATIVE COMMITTEES

COMMUNICATIONS	ELECTIONS & CREDENTIALS	FINANCE
<p><i>Sherry Hubbard-Chair</i> <i>Paul Stempko-Vice Chair</i> <i>Bobette Doerrie- Secretary</i> Blay, Jane Campbell, Albert B. Coycault, Stephen A. Davis, Elgin Garza, Trini Griffin, Doris Johnson, Jerry LaCoste, Sharon Lampert*, Barbara McGhee*, Richard Merrick, Susan Morrow, Frances Parks, Charlotte Peters, Carol Smith, Bob Tyler*, Rod Wildman*, Peggy</p>	<p><i>Barbara Aydlett - Chair</i> <i>Polo LaCoste – Vice Chair</i> <i>Irma Cauley, Secretary</i> Abraham, Alan Benenson, Sylvia Blankenship, Jeanine Byler, Nancy Collins**, Mary Jo Ewing, Mamie Garcia, Dolores Hardin, Nancy O. Johnson*, Chris Johnson, Paula Liaci, Jene Meier, Mike Munoz, Hugo Nixon, Mary Parrish, Linda Rogers, Brigitte Valladolid, Rose Mary Walsh, Mark</p>	<p><i>Wayne Merrill - Chair</i> <i>Don Murphy – Vice Chair</i> Bailey, Bill Blackmon*, Joann Brinson, Dolan- Butler, Louise Carey, William Christensen*, Scott Hesse**, Linda Hesse**, Tom Johnson, John L. Okabayashi, Mari Parker, Willie Porter, Pat J. Roberts, Jetta Saenz*, Ruben Tyson, Jerry Volcik, Danny Wilkinson, Grady</p>
OPERATIONS	OPERATIONS, CONTINUED	LEGISLATIVE ACTION
<p><i>Ted Hubert - Chair</i> <i>Jim Hitt – Vice Chair</i> <i>Rose Timmer- Secretary</i> Anderson*, Debra Andrews*, Irene Archuleta**, Frank Arterbury*, Ken Borchardt*, Laura Bowling, Ruth Bratcher*, Capt. Bob Britton, Lynn Brown*, Betty Jo Camacho, Tito Camp*, Mike Dale, Joe* deJong-Davis* Alicia Doerrie*, Jerome Dorsey*, Carolyn Garnett, Richard Hooey, Betty Johnson*, Russ Lively, Don Mitchell, Lynda</p>	<p>Sandoval* Mike Shabaaz*, Ahia Smith, Mary Pat Streckfuss, Betty Lee Timmerman**, Linda Waldrip, Johnny Whiteside, Elsie Wilson*, Sue</p>	<p><i>Linda Parrish - Chair</i> <i>Paul Stempko – Vice Chair</i> <i>Sue Wilson - Secretary</i> Ken Arterbury Bill Bailey Louise Butler Irma Cauley Richard Garnett Trini Garza Don Murphy Mary Pat Smith Sue Wilson</p> <p>*First-term members July, 2017 **First-term after Nov., 2017</p>

17th TSHL LEGISLATIVE ISSUES COMMITTEES

CRIMINAL JUSTICE	EDUCATION	HEALTH & HUMAN RESOURCES
<i>Bill Bailey - Chair</i> <i>Danny Volcik - Vice Chair</i> Archuleta**, Frank Brinson, Dolan Coycault, Steve Dale*, Joe Hitt, Jim Johnson*, Chris Smith, Bob Waldrip, Johnny	<i>Trini Garza - Chair</i> <i>Hugo Munoz - Vice Chair</i> <i>Bobette Doerrie - Secretary</i> Byler, Nancy Garcia, Delores Hubbard, Sherry Hubert, Ted Parker, Willie Tyson, Jerry	<i>Sue Wilson - Chair</i> <i>Paul Stempko - Vice Chair</i> <i>Ahia Shabaaz - Secretary</i> Anderson*, Debra Aydlett, Barbara Blankenship, Jeanine deJong-Davis* Alicia Ewing, Mamie LaCoste, Polo LaCoste, Sharon Liaci, Jene Meier, Mike Roberts, Jetta Streckfuss, Betty Lee Timmer*, Rose
HUMAN SERVICES	INSURANCE	RETIREMENT & AGING
<i>Mary Pat Smith - Chair</i> <i>Alan Abraham - Vice Chair</i> <i>Frances Morrow - Secretary</i> Benenson, Sylvia Brown*, Betty Jo Griffin, Doris Hesse**, Linda Merrick* Susan Mitchell*, Lynda Walsh, Mark Wildman*, Peggy	<i>Richard Garnett - Chair</i> <i>Mike Camp - Vice Chair</i> <i>Charlotte Parks - Secretary</i> Britton**, Lynn Nixon, Mary	<i>Don Murphy - Chair</i> <i>Jane Blay, - Secretary</i> Andrews*, Irene Blackmon**, Joann Bowling, Ruth Camacho, Tito Campbell, Al Carey, William Davis, Elgin Hardin, Nancy O. Johnson*, Russ Lampert*, Barbara Timmerman**, Linda Whiteside, Elsie
RURAL – URBAN	STATE AFFAIRS	UTILITIES & NATURAL RESOURCES
<i>Ken Arterbury - Chair</i> <i>Scott Christensen – Vice Chair</i> <i>Laura Borchardt - Secretary</i> Hesse**, Tom Hooey, Betty Johnson, Jerry Lively, Don Rogers, Brigitte Wilkinson, Grady	<i>Irma Cauley - Chair</i> <i>Carolyn Dorsey – Vice Chair</i> <i>Mari Okabayashi - Secretary</i> Johnson, John L. Johnson, Paula McGhee*, Richard Parrish, Linda Sandoval, Mike Tyler*, Rod	<i>Louise Butler - Chair</i> <i>Ruben Saenz* - Vice Chair</i> <i>Pat J. Porter - Secretary</i> Bratcher, Capt. Bob Collins**, Mary Jo Doerrie*, Jerome Merrill, Wayne Peters, Carol Valladolid, Rose Mary

* First-term members July, 2017

**First-term after Nov., 2017

17TH TSHL SPECIAL COMMITTEES

AWARDS	DIRECTORY	DOCUMENTS REVIEW
Jane Blay, Chair Mari Okabayashi	Rhonda Rogers, Chair Sherry Hubbard	Richard Garnett, Chair Mona Bailey Sherry Hubbard Frances Morrow
ETHICS	MEMORIAL	RESOLUTION REVIEW
Nancy O. Hardin, Chair Alan Abraham Jerry Johnson Mary Nixon Danny Volcik	Dolan Brinson, Chair Russ Johnson	Pat J. Porter, Chair Chris Johnson Linda Parrish Paul Stempko
SILVER BULLETIN	STRATEGIC PLANNING	TECHNOLOGY
Sharon LaCoste, Editor	Myron Meier, Chair Betty Hooey John L. Johnson Frances Morrow Don Murphy	Pat J. Porter, Chair Al Campbell William Carey Irma Cauley Richard Garnett Linda Parrish Ruben Saenz
TRAINING		
Jeanine Blankenship, Chair Debra Anderson, Secretary Ken Arterbury Scott Christensen Mamie Ewing Hugo Munoz Ahia Shabaaz		



17th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature 2017

17th TSHL Legislative Report prepared by authority of:

The Honorable Walter Graham, Speaker

The Honorable Sherry Hubbard, Chair, Communications Committee

TSHL Secretary: The Honorable Mary Collins

Dr. Elize Brazier, Texas Silver-Haired Legislature Foundation President

Editor: Dr. Sherry Hubbard

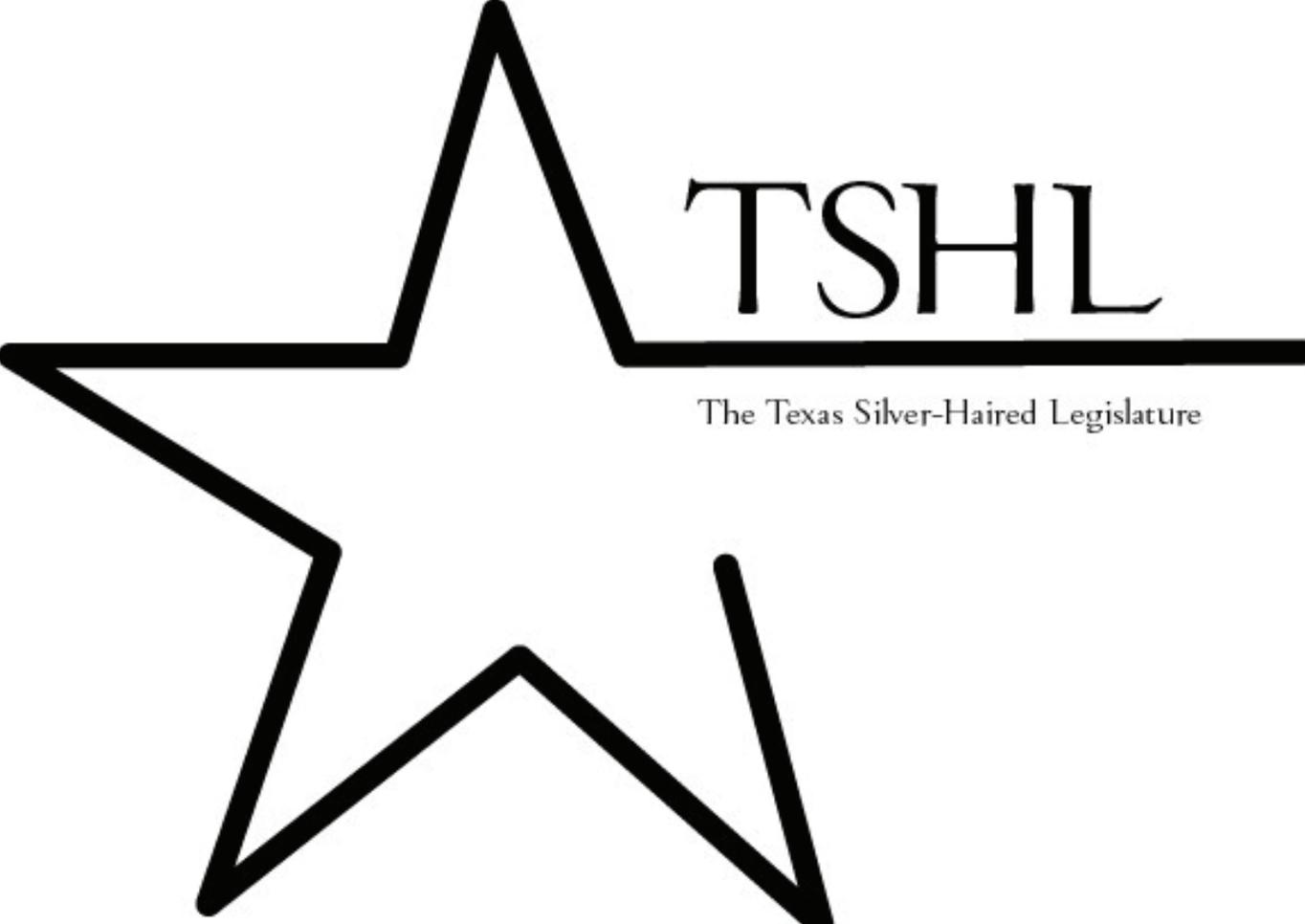
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