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Subject: A Victory for Low-Income Assisted Living Residents

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50 State Dementia Training Overview

There are more than five million people living with Alzheimer's and related dementias, and the numbers are growing, yet state-mandated training requirements for the facilities and professionals that serve these individuals are, for the most part, alarmingly inadequate to meet the growing need. To provide advocates with a roadmap for where we are and where we need to be, Justice in Aging released a first-of-its-kind comprehensive survey of state laws around dementia training. The survey, [Training to Serve People with Dementia: Is our Health Care System Ready?](#) was created with the support of the Alzheimer's Association. The co-author of the papers, Directing Attorney Georgia Burke (pictured), also [presented a webinar](#) on the topic with Randi Chapman from the Alzheimer's Association. "The Justice in Aging report is a wakeup call for policymakers," said Matthew Baumgart, senior director of public policy with the Alzheimer's Association. "These findings demonstrate that we are woefully unequipped to deal with the growing Alzheimer's crisis as the baby boomers age and prevalence of those living with this disease triples..." Organized into five separate papers, the survey includes detailed charts with full state law citations.

A Victory for Low-Income Assisted Living Residents

In Ohio, as in many other states, low-income assisted living residents have been illegally burdened with hundreds of thousands of dollars in bills for charges that should have been covered under Medicaid's Assisted Living Waiver program. To remedy this issue, Justice in Aging, along with Cincinnati firm Beckman Weil Shepardson, brought a class-

action suit on behalf of two such seniors, Betty Hilleger and Geraldine Saunders. The Cincinnati federal court ruled last week that the Ohio Medicaid program must eliminate the coverage gap that has saddled many Ohio assisted living residents with unaffordable assisted living charges. The court ruled that Ohio's practices violate a federal Medicaid law that requires coverage up to three months prior to the month of application, if all eligibility requirements are met. The full court order can be accessed [here](#) along with the [press release](#) and [blog post](#).

Kevin Prindiville featured on Talk Poverty Radio

Central to our work is raising awareness of senior poverty. Last month Kevin joined other experts for a special [Happy Birthday Social Security episode](#) of [Talk Poverty Radio](#). It was a chance to talk about why the number of low-to-no income older adults is growing and inform listeners that senior poverty is, unfortunately, "still a thing." You can [listen to the podcast](#) (Kevin's at the 30 minute mark).

SSI Restoration Act Gains Traction in the News

Last week the Miami Herald ran an op-ed, [Helping struggling seniors and disabled](#), that we helped author with Timothy A. Canova, Professor of Law and Public Finance at Nova Southeastern University, in Fort Lauderdale, Florida. The piece sheds light on the 6.4 million Americans living in poverty and the 124,000 seniors living in poverty in Miami-Dade and Broward Counties alone. Canova helps make the connection between these bleak numbers and how Florida's own Congressional delegation can respond to the crisis: Restore the Supplemental Security Income (SSI) program. The nation's poor seniors rely on SSI, often for all their expenses, which means making ends meet on a budget of less than \$800/month. Simple updates to the program to reflect modern financial realities via The SSI Restoration Act (a bill currently in Congress) would mean more people aging in dignity. Canova's piece ends with a timely call to action "With such large numbers of seniors living in poverty and dependent on SSI in Miami-Dade and Broward Counties, Florida's Congressional delegation should stop the foot-dragging and actively support the SSI Restoration Act of 2015."

[Read the full Op-Ed here »](#)

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