

From: Lily Cogdill <LilyCogdill@scstatehouse.gov>
To: Danny Varat <DannyVarat@scstatehouse.gov>
Date: 3/15/2017 3:44:59 PM
Subject: FW: NASW presentation for March 22

As you requested.

Lily

From: Bedsole, Coretta D [mailto:cbedsole@aarp.org]
Sent: Wednesday, March 15, 2017 3:40 PM
To: Lily Cogdill
Subject: NASW presentation for March 22

Lily,
Great talking with you. Let me know if you need any other information. I am so pleased this worked out for his schedule.
Thanks,
Coretta

Lt. Governor Bryant is scheduled for Wednesday, March 22nd at 8:00 a.m. The topic is entitled "Legislative Issues." Teresa Arnold, the AARP SC state director will introduce him. *Please let me know whether or not he will take questions.*

Senator Shealy is tentatively scheduled to present after Lt. Governor Bryant.

I will be on hand to assist.

The audience will be primarily Social Workers and others folks who deal with vulnerable adults and other at risk populations. I am hearing there will be 200 or so in the audience.

AARP SC is the major sponsor as part of our commitment to improving educational opportunities for DSS Adult Protective Services caseworkers.

Here are some talking points for senior specific issues. However, the audience could be interested in other legislative priorities that the Lt. Governor may have.

Talking Points

1. SC Access website – a 2015 caregiving poll of AARP SC members found that almost 70% of our state's seniors and/or their family caregivers wanted an improved information and referral system for information on how to access services. The LGOA is in the process of updating the website with a fall launch date.
2. Respite funding -- The Lt. Governor's Office on Aging is requesting \$600,000 for respite vouchers for family caregivers. House passed budget has \$200,000 towards that request. In 2015 the Legislature appropriated \$1 million in recurring funds for respite services for family caregivers. In 2016 the Legislature appropriated another \$1 million in recurring funding. This additional \$600,000 will fill the gap for existing needs. *Why are these funds needed?* More than 700,000 caregivers in SC provide vital services to their loved ones. If the caregiver is no longer able to provide this service, the loved one may need institutional care. The state could then be holding the tab, as Medicaid pays for the majority of nursing home beds. Supporting caregivers is crucial. Respite, or rest, for caregivers of seniors and adults with disabilities allows the caregiver to take a break from their caregiver duties. Informal caregiving has been shown to help delay or prevent the use of nursing home care.
3. Home and Community Based Services – might want to explain some of the services the LGOA provides in this area.

4. Senior Hunger – LGOA, SC DSS and AARP SC partnered to produce a senior hunger brochure to help educate seniors about how to ask for help. South Carolina ranks 4th in the nation for older adult risk of hunger and is 17th in the USDA state food insecurity ranking. Over 10% of our older adults are at risk for hunger. It's easy to imagine that Social Security and Medicare provide sufficient protection against a problem as basic as hunger. Yet the average Social Security benefit is around \$1,300 a month — and a majority of seniors today rely on Social Security as their largest source of income.

Coretta Bedsole | **AARP South Carolina** | Associate State Director
Advocacy
1201 Main Street | Suite 1720 | Columbia, SC 29201
Office: 803-765-7383 | Cell: 803-403-5313



If you don't think Real Possibilities when you think AARP, then you don't know 'aarp'.

