



AREA AGENCIES ON AGING ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN
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“Short-term pain, but long-term gain” is the message being delivered to a wide variety of groups by the Snyder administration as well as legislative leaders. Translated – ‘Large budget cuts are needed and will impact state programs across all spending areas. But when jobs are created, tax revenues will grow, and we will have more money for priority programs that are proven effective.’ One thing is clear – Republican leaders see the November election as a mandate for bold action to reduce the size of government, meaning government spending and government regulations.

Along these lines, the House Republican Caucus issued a set of “Guiding Principles” outlining spending reforms, tax reforms and regulatory reforms. The document can be found at www.gophouse.com or by emailing ablan@iserv.net. Here are some highlights:

- develop specific measurements to determine the value and return on investment for each program;
- review all government programs to ensure the best and most efficient delivery of services to those most in need;
- eliminate the Michigan Business Tax Surcharge and replace lost revenue by capping or eliminating special tax credits (for example, MEGA, Brownfield, Film, Food Retailers, Historic Preservation, Renaissance Zones, etc.);
- replace the Michigan Business Tax with a simpler, broader tax;
- allow the Income Tax rollback to occur on October 1, reducing the rate from 4.35% to 4.25%;
- eliminate the Earned Income Tax Credit, saving \$338 million for FY 2012.

While Olga Dazzo has been named interim director of the Office of Services to the Aging, the word is that the Governor will be appointing a permanent OSA Director in the near future. Stay tuned for further developments.

Did You Know? There are 70,000 grandparents in Michigan who are busy raising their grandchildren, according to a 2009 survey done by the U.S. Census Bureau. The top counties are no surprise – Wayne County has 20,000, Oakland has 6,400 and Macomb has 4,300 with Kent and Genesee Counties close behind. For more information, send an email to the MSU Kinship Care Center at kinship@msu.edu or call 1-800-535-1218.

Counseling on reverse mortgages . . . is now a statewide phone service provided by Elder Law of Michigan. The service is free and can be accessed by calling 1-866-400-9164.