

February 24, 2013

Resolution Supporting Governor Snyder's Executive Budget Request For \$5 Million For Senior In-Home Services To Make Michigan a "No Wait" State

**Commissioner Toni Mocerri on Behalf of the Board of Commissioners,
Offer the Following Resolution:**

WHEREAS, by 2030, 1 in 4 of Macomb County residents will be 65 years of age and older. In contrast, as the number of elderly continue to grow, the number of residents age 0-64 will decrease from 86% in 2005 to 75% in 2030 indicating that Macomb County will age faster than the nation, state, and surrounding regions; and

WHEREAS, between 2008 and 2011 the Office of Services to the Aging (OSA) programs were cut approximately 28% (\$9.3 Million), despite the fact that Michigan's senior population grew by over 20% from the 2000-2010 U.S. Census; and

WHEREAS, the 127,000 Macomb County senior residents have been the benefactors of OSA state funds to support a range of social, nutritional, access and long-term care services; and

WHEREAS, in Michigan, nearly 4,500 seniors are not receiving the much needed in-home services including home-delivered meals; and

WHEREAS, in Southeastern Michigan, half of the people qualifying for services must wait six months or more to receive services; and

WHEREAS, during the 2014 State of the State address, Governor Snyder made a commitment for Michigan to become a "no-wait" state for senior in-home services; and

WHEREAS, on February 5, 2014, Governor Snyder presented his executive budget to State Legislators which included an appropriation of \$5 million to the Department of Community Health (DCH) budget to support the OSA; and

WHEREAS, these funds would be utilized through the aging network to provide Michigan's seniors with the basic services that assist them in maintaining their independence, which include basic in-home services such as personal care to assist with daily hygiene; homemaking to help maintain a clean, safe and healthy home; respite providing relief to primary caregivers; home delivered meals and senior nutrition programs; chore and minor home repairs; care management to monitor use of community services; medication management; and personal emergency response systems to monitor safety and provide emergency services; and

WHEREAS, the Governor also requested an increase of \$9 million for the MI Choice Waiver Program and \$1 million in new funding for the prevention of elder abuse which includes training professionals in the medical and financial fields; and

WHEREAS, the Silver Key Coalition, an advocacy group of over 25 individuals, organizations and aging services providers which formed in July of 2013 with the goal ending the wait lists for OSA supported in-home services for seniors, was instrumental in advocating for this funding; and

WHEREAS, the Macomb County Board of Commissioners recognizes the importance of the Senior Nutrition Program, which prompted them to appropriate an additional \$168,307 during the 2014 budget cycle to alleviate cuts from the sequestration; and

WHEREAS, the approval of this funding is now with the Senate and House DCH Appropriations Subcommittees chaired by Senator John Moolenaar (R-Midland) and Representative Matt Lori (R-Constantine) respectively.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED that the Macomb County Board of Commissioners supports Governor Snyder's executive budget request for \$5 million for senior in-home services to make Michigan a "No Wait" state for our senior residents.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Macomb County Board of Commissioners encourage State Senator John Moolenaar and State Representative Matt Lori to approve Governor Snyder's budget request for \$5 million for senior in-home services.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that hard copies of this resolution be provided to Governor Rick Snyder, State Senator John Moolenaar, and State Representative Matt Lori; and soft copies of this resolution be provided to all Macomb County State Legislators, Macomb County Executive Mark Hackel, Macomb County Community Services Agency Director Rhonda Powell, Macomb County Office of Senior Services Director Katherine Benford, AAA 1-B Board of Directors Chair Amin Irving, AAA 1-B CEO Tina Marzolf, and Michigan Association of Counties (MAC) Legislative Coordinator Deena Bosworth.