

The 2013 Washington State Legislative Session: Key Wins for AARP Members

<p style="text-align: center;">Medicaid Expansion</p> <p>Older people who do not have employer based health insurance and who are not yet eligible for Medicare often struggle find health insurance plans they can afford. With the Medicaid expansion, 40,000 Washingtonians age 50-64 will have access to the health care coverage they need. Another 90,000 people in this age group will be eligible for subsidies and tax credits to help them purchase coverage they can afford through Washington HealthplanFinder, the newly established health care marketplace.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;">Joint Legislative-Executive Committee on Aging and Disability</p> <p>This two-year committee will be composed of eight legislators from both parties and four administration officials tasked with identifying key strategies to prepare Washington state for the age wave on the horizon.</p>
	<p style="text-align: center;">Dental Benefits Restored</p> <p>More than 100,000 people age 50+ will have their Medicaid dental benefits restored.</p>

Long Term Care Insurance Consumer Protections, [SB 5216](#)

When a loved one needs long term care, no one wants to have to fight with an insurance company to pay the bill. This bill requires insurance companies to respond to long-term care insurance claims within 30 days and directs the insurance commissioner to adopt prompt payment requirements, including a definition of clean claims. *(Senator Christine Rolfes D-Bainbridge Island)*

Adult Family Home Resident Protections, [SB 5630](#)

Adult Family Homes are a popular option for people who can no longer live independently but want to remain in a home-like setting. This bill makes it easier for consumers to shop for and compare Adult Family Homes by requiring a standardized disclosure form and improvements to the state web site that lists these homes. In addition, it calls for more effective quality oversight and training. *(Senator Barbara Bailey R-Oak Harbor)*

Neighborhood Safe Speeds, [HB 1045](#)

Safe, walkable streets are important both for people of all ages, and especially important for the many older adults who can no longer drive. This bill gives cities and towns the authority to set speed limits to 20 miles per hour on non-arterial streets. It does not mandate any change, it simply allows for greater local control. *(Representative Cindy Ryu D-Shoreline)*

Medication Access for the Uninsured, [SSB 5148](#)

Access to affordable prescription drugs is a challenge for many people as they age. This bill allows for the safe redistribution of drugs from patients who no longer need them to low-income people and people who are uninsured. It allows practitioners, pharmacists, medical facilities, drug manufacturers, and drug wholesalers to donate prescription drugs and supplies to pharmacies for redistribution. *(Senator Karen Keiser D-Des Moines)*

Protections for Vulnerable Adults, [SB 5510](#)

Some very vulnerable older people in our state suffer because their needs are neglected by those who are supposed to be caring for them. This bill broadens the statutory definition of neglect and requires more information sharing between state agencies so that these and other situations involving abuse and exploitation can be more effectively addressed. *(Senator Randi Becker R-Eatonville)*

Tax Exemption Transparency and Accountability, [ESSB 5882](#)

Spending through the tax code should be subject to the same scrutiny as all other spending. While this bill includes new tax breaks it also includes important new requirements such clear definitions of the intent, measureable outcomes and expiration dates for all new or extended tax preferences. *(Senator Andy Hill R-Redmond)*