Fellow Michigander,

Over the past few years, the Legislature has continued to fight to make the lives of Michigan seniors better. My colleagues and I believe it is our responsibility to continue this fight and advocate for seniors in the years to come. Michigan’s economy is growing healthier and so should our seniors.

Among the many reforms we’ve made to help seniors, we’re particularly proud of improved regulations to protect against abuse and neglect, increased efforts to curb fraudulent activity and the creation of safer living environments.

I am honored to continue working with my colleagues in the House of Representatives in pursuing additional reforms to protect the lives of Michigan’s senior citizens. Our parents, grandparents and other senior members in the community worked hard to provide for each and every one of us growing up and now it is our turn to provide for them. Inside you will read more about what is being done in Lansing to continue Michigan’s comeback. It is a privilege to serve as your state representative. If you have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

LEE CHATFIELD
State Representative, District 107

(517) 373-2629 • LeeChatfield@house.mi.gov
www.RepChatfield.com

SENIOR RESOURCES

State Representative Lee Chatfield .......... (517) 373-2629
Aging & Adult Services Agency .............. (517) 373-8230
Consumer Protection Division ............... (877) 765-8388
Do Not Call Registry ......................... (888) 382-1222
Emergency Relief: Home, Utilities & Burial  (855) ASK-MICH
Medicare/Medicaid Assistance Program ...(800) 803-7174
MI Dept. of Military and Veterans Affairs ...(517) 481-8000
MI Veterans Affairs Agency .......... (800) MICH-VET
Report Abuse and Neglect ................. (855) 444-3911
Social Security Administration ............ (800) 772-1213
Tax Assistance (Federal) ............... (800) 829-1040
Tax Assistance (State) ............... (517) 636-4486
Utility Assistance (Public Service Commission) .... (800) 292-9555

WE'RE HERE TO HELP!

If you have comments or concerns regarding state programs and services, please call my office at (517) 373-2629.

Changes and Choices

- Information on changes in Medicare and Medicaid premiums and cost sharing, eligibility for services, benefits, and more.
- Assistance with Medicare and Medicaid enrollment.
- Application assistance and appeals of determinations.

For Health Care

- Information on state health care programs and services, including the Choicepoint program.
- Assistance with enrollment and benefits.

For Home Services

- Information on state home services programs and services, including the Homeward Bound program.
- Assistance with enrollment and benefits.

For Housing Assistance

- Information on state housing programs and services, including the Section 8 program.
- Assistance with enrollment and benefits.

For Transportation Assistance

- Information on state transportation programs and services, including the Access program.
- Assistance with enrollment and benefits.

For Energy Assistance

- Information on state energy assistance programs and services, including the State Energy Assistance Program (SEAP).
- Assistance with enrollment and benefits.

For Legal Assistance

- Information on state legal assistance programs and services, including the Legal Services Corporation (LSC) program.
- Assistance with eligibility determination and application assistance.

For Mental Health

- Information on state mental health programs and services, including the Mental Health Services Program (MHSP).
- Assistance with enrollment and benefits.

For Parental Rights

- Information on state parental rights programs and services, including the Parental Rights Protection Act (PRPA).
- Assistance with enrollment and benefits.

For Aging and Adult Services

- Information on state aging and adult services programs and services, including the Aging and Adult Services Program (AASP).
- Assistance with enrollment and benefits.

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BILL EXPANDS AND STRENGTHENS HOMESTEAD PROPERTY TAX CREDIT

As part of a complete road funding agreement, I supported a plan to make the Homestead Property Tax Credit more generous and offer it to more people.

In 2011, Michigan made a number of tax changes to save the state from the recession, keep critical services running and encourage job creation. Those changes did their job, but now we are all on more stable footing.

Our state is very different now than it was in 2011. With hundreds of thousands of new jobs, record growth and budget surpluses, it is well past time to return this money to the people. That is why I co-sponsored House Bill 4370.

The Homestead Property Tax Credit is designed to help middle-class homeowners and renters, as well as seniors on a fixed income. With state revenues looking stronger, we can now move up the cutoff, so everyone making up to $60,000 can now claim the credit.

Additionally, the credit now gives you more money back, which means about $200 million back in the pockets of Michigan’s hard-working taxpayers.

HB 4370 was signed into law by the governor on November 10.

Michigan residents can protect themselves while online by following some common-sense tips.

According to the FBI Internet Crime Complaint Center, Michigan residents and businesses have lost more than $20 million to cyber-criminal activities so far in 2015, with an average victim loss of $4,500.

Included are some tips on how to protect yourself online:

- Set strong passwords and don’t share them
- Keep your operating system and software up to date
- Limit the amount of personal information you post online
- Maintain an open dialogue with family and friends about Internet safety
- Use caution online — if it sounds too good to be true, it probably is!

To learn about staying safe and protected online, people are encouraged to go to the Michigan Cyber Initiative website at www.michigan.gov/cybersecurity.

STAY SAFE ONLINE AND PROTECT YOURSELF FROM CYBER-FRAUD

ANNOYED BY TELEMARKETERS?

You can stop receiving unwanted telemarketing calls by signing up for the national Do Not Call List. It is against the law for telemarketers to call any number once it has been listed on the registry for 31 days. You may still receive calls from charities and nonprofit organizations, political campaigns, pollsters and organizations with which you currently conduct business.

To register for the national Do Not Call List, call (888) 382-1222 or visit www.donotcall.gov

DON’T FLUSH PRESCRIPTION MEDICATIONS

In the past, people were told to flush old pills and other medication down the toilet when they were no longer needed. But with millions of people flushing unwanted medicine, traces of drug residue could leak into the water supply and create unknown health risks to people and danger to the environment.

Water treatment plants cannot remove all drug compounds, and flushed medicine can also kill bacteria that septic systems need to work. Instead of flushing pills and other old medication, see if your pharmacy has a drug take-back program.

If not, dispose of medicine by throwing it away in the trash. Keep pharmaceuticals in their original container and be sure to cross out personal information with a permanent marker. Then seal the container with duct tape or put in a plastic bag you can close before throwing it away.

In addition, some local and county governments now offer prescription drug take-back days.