



DRAFT 9/26/06

## 2 MILLION TEXAS SENIORS NEED YOUR HELP

### REINSTATE UTILITY ASSISTANCE FOR SENIORS OF LESSER MEANS

#### *Texas needs to reinstate the Lite Up Texas Fund*

**Texas needs to reinstate:** the Lite Up Texas Fund which was intended to provide financial assistance to seniors of lesser means so that they can pay their electric bills. Texans currently pay a surcharge on their electric bills, and these funds are being swept into the general revenue of the State. TSAC supports the reinstatement of the Lite Up Texas fund as a dedicated fund to assist seniors of lesser means with their electric bills.

### INCREASE COMMUNITY CARE FUNDING SO SENIORS CAN LIVE IN THEIR HOMES LONGER

#### *Texas should increase funding for community based assistance for older adults*

**Texas needs to increase:** funding for community-based care by a certain percentage each year until there is no longer a waiting list for Community Based Assistance. Living in the community provides greater dignity and independence to seniors and is less costly to the State than paying for care in nursing facilities.

### ESTABLISH A DEDICATED FUNDING STREAM FOR LOCAL GUARDIANSHIP PROGRAMS

#### *Texas needs a Statewide Guardianship System*

**Texas law should add:** a \$20 fee on every probate filing (est. 60,000 filings) to provide a dedicated funding stream for distribution by HHSC to local guardianship programs to provide guardianship services to incapacitated adults who are without family support and who are not eligible for guardianship services from DADS guardianship program. Currently, 20 local guardianship program provide guardianship services for over 3,000 incapacitated adults with budgets exceeding \$7 million with only \$700,000 coming from State funds. This filing fee would provide \$1.2 million per year to local guardianship programs to continue to provide guardianship services to these vulnerable adults.

### PROTECT ALZHEIMER'S PATIENTS

#### *Texas should provide better care for those with Alzheimer's disease*

**Texas needs to move:** Alzheimer's disease from the bottom of the TILE system to a TILE ranking that more accurately reflects the reasonable costs for nursing facilities to provide quality care. Nursing facilities should receive more reimbursement from Medicaid for providing care to its residents who suffer from Alzheimer's disease as one-half of all elderly nursing home suffer from Alzheimer's disease. Alzheimer's related education and training requirements for assisted living and nursing facilities should also be increased.

**For more information, contact Steve Fields at 817-884-1049 or [sfields@tarrantcounty.com](mailto:sfields@tarrantcounty.com)**

*Texas Senior Advocacy Coalition is composed of 32 non-profit senior advocacy groups in Texas.  
Member organizations listed on back.*

*Uniting the voices of senior Texans*

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