



2020 Arizona Advocacy Priorities

Protecting Retirement Income – All workers should have a secure retirement composed of four pillars: Social Security, pensions and savings, earnings and health insurance. AARP will strongly support public and private pension plans keeping the promises made to workers and retirees invested in the plans to ensure retirees have adequate income.

Stop the Rx Greed – Arizonans shouldn't have to pay the highest prices in the world for the medicines they need. No one should have to choose between food and medicine. Medications don't work if people can't afford them.

Fighting for the Utility Consumer – As incomes decline expenditures on utilities become a larger portion of household budgets for those age 50 and older. AARP supports optional rate programs through which residential users have increased control over their electric bills. Arizonans currently pay below the national average for electricity. AARP opposes restructuring and retail competition which raises residential costs and requires a loss of local control over Arizona power system.

Helping People Stay in their Own Homes and Communities - Arizona's aging population, those over 85 who are most in need of long term care, is projected to be 280,000 by 2035, a 100% increase from 2012. The number of individuals in Arizona over 65 will grow to nearly one-in-five residents by 2030. No one should be forced out of their home in order to receive long term services and supports. AARP is:

- * supporting funding for respite and in-home services and supports to help relieve the stress of 24/7/365 caregiving,
- * working to require better training of family caregivers in necessary home medical tasks before an older Arizonan's release from the hospital and
- * fighting to prevent adult abuse, ensuring there is adequate funding and protection for elderly victims of abuse, neglect and exploitation.

Ensuring health care is available through protecting those beneficiaries of Arizona's Medicaid expansion and the Arizona KidsCare program.

Fighting against Predatory Lending – AARP Arizona will work to ensure Arizona does not provide exemptions to our existing interest rate limits, high interest rate loans are structured as installment loan products with reasonable limits on interest and evaluation of the borrower's ability to repay, and that borrowers have adequate protection in the event of a default.

Promoting Livable Communities – Livable communities are safe and secure, have affordable and appropriate housing and transportation options, and offer supportive community features and services. The physical design of both the community and workplace have features that promote physical independence and dignity and increase opportunities for community engagement and choice as the population ages.

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