



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The **Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network** is a collaborative group of individuals and associations working with and for Wisconsin's older adults to shape public policy to improve their quality of life.

Core member organizations:

Aging and Disability Professionals Association of Wisconsin (*ADPAW*)

Alzheimer's Association SE Wisconsin Chapter

Wisconsin Adult Day Services Association (*WADSA*)

Wisconsin Association of Area Agencies on Aging (*W4A*)

Wisconsin Association of Benefit Specialists (*WABS*)

Wisconsin Association of Nutrition Directors (*WAND*)

Wisconsin Association of Senior Centers (*WASC*)

Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging (*WIHA*)

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Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network Aging Advocacy Day

(MADISON, WI) More than 200 older adults and aging advocates from around the state will gather at Capitol Lakes Wednesday, May 17, for Aging Advocacy Day. Advocates will meet with their state legislative offices to share the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network's (WAAN) four priority public policy issues impacting the health and well-being of the state's older adults.

"Our 2017-19 state budget priorities include funding for increases in the Medicaid personal care reimbursement rate, dementia care specialist program continuation and expansion, permanent healthy aging grants, and specialized transportation services," said WAAN Chairperson, Robert Kellerman. "These issues have a significant impact on Wisconsin's older adults and their families. Aging Advocacy Day provides the opportunity to let policy-makers know how they can effectively use resources to help older adults maintain financial and personal independence as long as possible."

Aging Advocacy Day begins with check-in from 9:00 -10:00 a.m., and will include an overview of aging issues along with tips for communication with legislators. Participants will also meet with others from their district to prepare for their legislative visits, which begin at 1:00 p.m. at the State Capitol.

May is Older Americans Month, the perfect time to celebrate older adults and acknowledge their many contributions to our communities, state, and nation. Aging Advocacy Day underscores this year's theme, "Age Out Loud," by encouraging older adults to speak up for themselves and others, and providing opportunities for older adults to share their experiences with policy-makers. WAAN is using this opportunity to raise awareness about important issues impacting the quality of life of older adults and their ability to remain living at home, active in their communities, and contributing to local economies.

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