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April 28, 2011  
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### **Massachusetts House Restores Funding for Elder Services**

Elder protective services, adult day health and COA allowances increased

Boston, MA – State Representative Kate Hogan (D–Stow) and Jen Benson (D–Lunenburg), joined colleagues in passing a consolidated amendment to the House Ways and Means budget that increased funding for elder service programs. The House Elder Caucus worked with caucus members and advocates to negotiate changes in language and funding for programs benefiting the Commonwealth’s elders.

The consolidated amendment includes funding increases to adult day health programs, councils on aging, elder protective services, the personal needs allowance, senior care options, and homeless elders. The amendment :

- **Places a moratorium on cuts to adult day health services** – adding \$10 million to the program and requires that the Governor review ADH rates and structure.

- **Increases funding for elder protective services** by \$1 million, councils on aging by \$350,000, and services for homeless elders by \$136,000 over the House Ways and Means proposal.

- **Holds the line on the personal needs allowance** for nursing home residents at \$72.80 and requires MassHealth to provide information for elders on SCOs.

“Despite our tough fiscal situation, the House was able restore funding for important elder service programs,” said Representative Benson, co-chair of the Elder Caucus. “Our aging population relies on these services and I am pleased we were able to provide continued support.”

“Our seniors have no greater champion than their state representative,” said Kate Hogan, co-chair of the Elder Caucus. “I have seen, first hand, the passionate advocacy for programs and services during budget negotiations. The results are increased funding and improvements to senior programs– even in a barebones budget.”

The budget now moves to the State Senate, which will debate their proposal at the end of May.

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