



FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
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MORE THAN 150 PEOPLE RALLY TO SUPPORT ADVOCACY DAY

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*)

Wisconsin Senior Corps Association (*WISCA*)

Madison, WI. —On May 16, 2018 members of the Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN) and citizens from around the state gathered in Madison in support of the third annual Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Day (#WIAAD).

Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Day provided an opportunity for 170 advocates to discuss the important issues facing Wisconsin's older adults with lawmakers. Following a morning of advocate training and education, volunteers met with legislators to discuss the key issues identified by WAAN and asked for their support on the following:

- The importance of **strengthening support for family caregivers** by supporting the CARE (Caregiver Advise, Record Enable) Act, creating a tax credit for family members spending personal resources to care for a loved one, and expanding dementia care specialist (DCS) services statewide (33% of the population age 60 and older does not yet have access to DCS services).
- The **benefits of proven and cost-effective healthy aging grants** to improve health, reduce costs, and prevent or delay long-term care. This included a request for a \$600,000 annual budget appropriation for healthy aging grants to counties/tribes for proven programs and to support a statewide clearinghouse and support center.
- **Public health issues related to social isolation and loneliness** among older adults and a request that a Joint Assembly and Senate Committee be formed to study the issue of social isolation and create policy solutions to reduce isolation in the senior population in Wisconsin.
- Importance of **reliable, accessible and affordable transportation options** as a key for older adults to remain independent, engaged and connected. This included a request for a 10% increase in transit and specialized transportation to counties and tribes, an ongoing request for increases of at least 3.5% to account for growth over the past five years and accelerated growth in the future. Advocates also requested policies incentivizing coordination of transportation services and legislation to clarify the insurance requirements of volunteer drivers and ensure protections under the Good Samaritan Law.

More details and WAAN's State Issue Briefs can be found online at <https://gwaar.org/aging-advocacy-day-2018>

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The Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN) is a collaborative group of individuals and associations working with and for Wisconsin's older adults to shape public policy that improves the quality of life of older people throughout the state. WAAN educates both supporters and opponents, mobilizes allies on priority issues, and advocates positions utilizing the shared experience, knowledge, and constituencies of member organizations.