

## National Silver Haired Congress Presents Resolutions to U.S. Congress

*Senate Russell Building, Washington, DC*

The 20<sup>th</sup> Legislative Session of the National Silver Haired Congress (NSHC) kicked off with a message from Senate Aging Committee Chairman Susan Collins, (ME) welcoming the National Silver Haired Congress via recorded message and wishing the NSHC a successful 3-day conference. She discussed the many similarities of the National Silver Haired Congress's issues and the US Senate Select Committee on Aging Committee's priorities.

This 20<sup>th</sup> session NSHC motto is: ***'Ageism and Ableism: The Most Underutilized Resources of Our Time.'*** Chairwoman Shirley Wiggins challenged the US Congress to provide serious consideration to the resolutions developed by the National Silver Haired Congress, and stated that, "If our nation ignores the experience and wisdom of our elderly in our legislative policymaking process, it is to our own peril." "We urge the Congress to seek the valuable and too often untapped resources of our nation's elderly as reflected by the National Silver Haired Congress," explained Wiggins. Chairwoman Shirley Wiggins congratulated the attendees for all that they do to represent and inspire the Seniors of this great nation toward engagement in the legislative process, stating that, "What you are doing is making a tremendous difference for generations to come." "You are a remarkable representation of the greatness of America and a personal inspiration to us all," commented Wiggins. The top seven resolutions that the National Silver Haired Congress sent to Congress this week are attached.

*The National Silver Haired Congress is a volunteer grassroots organization created and encouraged through a U.S. Congress Concurrent Resolution in October 1994 to study issues that concern the senior adult population and present them to Congress for action. As established by Congress, the NSHC is patterned after the US Congress, with each state having two Silver Senators and the same number of Silver Representatives that the state has represented in the US Congress. The NSHC's vision is to be an effective, non-partisan and independent national grassroots organization helping America's seniors improve their independence and quality of life, through education and advocacy.*

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# **National Silver Haired Congress, 20th Annual**

## **Session**

### **Top Seven Resolutions for 2018**

*(Resolution Number is in Parenthesis)*

The 20th Annual Session of the NSHC announces the following recommendations to be presented to the U.S. Congress for consideration and enactment of legislation to improve the quality of life for the senior choosing to "age in place":

#### **Mandatory Hearing Test as Part of Medicare Senior Wellness Visit (#1)**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that **The National Silver Haired Congress** urge the United States Congress to require that a hearing test be included as a part of the annual Medicare Senior Wellness Visit.

#### **Establish a Senior Health Savings Account (#2)**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that **The National Silver Haired Congress** urge the U. S. Congress to pass legislation to allow persons 65 and older to create a Senior Health Savings Account which would be a deduction on both the federal income tax form and the state tax form of up to \$3000 per year, and that funds remaining in this account would automatically roll over into the next year.

#### **Increase the Funding of the Older Americans Act (#4)**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that **The National Silver Haired Congress** urge the U. S. Congress to either (1) propose a budget increase for the Older Americans Act (OAA) of fifty-six (56) million dollars to catch up the funding needed to make sure every senior over the age of 65 gets delivery of social and nutrition services to this group and their caregivers or (2) adjust the Older Americans Act (OAA) budget to reflect at least a 25% or more of the budget increase to maintain needed services for the older population.

#### **Create an Ongoing Living Adjustment (SS COLA) Guarantee (#11)**

**BE IT RESOLVED**, that **The National Silver Haired Congress** urge the United States Congress to help provide financial security for Social Security recipients by guaranteeing **annual 3%-6% COLA increases** to help keep these aging and often disabled beneficiaries out of poverty.

#### **Updating Regulations of Assisted Living Communities to Reflect Needs of Residents Requiring a Higher Level of Care (#12)**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that **The National Silver Haired Congress** urge the U.S. Congress to form a special committee to specifically address and update regulations governing the care and cost of Assisted Living Communities to better serve and protect our seniors' health, welfare and life savings.

#### **Court Appointed Probate Guardianship Abuse Oversight (#13)**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that **The National Silver Haired Congress** urge the United States Congress to create an independent oversight committee to examine how fees, caregivers and guardians are established and maintain a vigilant watch over the system in order to curtail abuses.

#### **National Priority Alert System Evacuation Protocol for Impending Natural Disasters (#14)**

**BE IT RESOLVED** that **The National Silver Haired Congress** urge the United States Congress to establish a predetermined priority protocol for rescue of seniors during natural disasters, thereby guaranteeing the enhanced safety and reduction of deaths among these frail citizens.