

Minutes

Legislative Advocacy Committee

Governor's Commission on Senior Services

April 22, 2004

Keizer, Oregon

Attendees: Helen Liere, Chair; Dolores Raymond, Vice-Chair; Linda Miller; Jack Ewing; Tim Malone; Dolores Hubert; Harvey Roth; Ham Jackson; Adelina Sampang; Bob Lawrence; and Barbara Brewer-Nelson

Staff: Jane-ellen Weidanz and Sherry Whitehead

Guests: Ruth Shepherd

Excused: Eunice Dutton; Don Butsch; and Mary Harvey

Called Meeting to Order

Approved March 2004 Minutes.

Federal Issues

Discussed the impact of the War on social services and other discretionary funded programs.

MOTION: Recommend to the full Commission to send a letter to the Congressional Delegation to oppose any Conference Committee Proposals that would include any cuts to Medicaid, Medicare, and other Social Services. (Tim Malone) *Passed*

Action Item:

Send letter to Congressional Delegation to oppose any Conference Committee Proposals that would include any tax cuts.

Assigned To:

Jane-ellen

Deadline:

Joint Interim Committee on Tax Reform

Discussed the conflict surrounding a potential special session. Senators Westlund and Schrader presented a proposal for structural reform of the tax system intended to provide for stability and economic expansion. This is based on job creation, income and property tax reduction, capped capital gains, and estate taxes. It would introduce a consumption tax, 5% sales tax, include renter relief and earned income tax credits, and likely a rainy day fund, without a spending limit as previous limits have not worked. Rep. Butler presented a proposal for reform within the existing tax structure. He supports the "structural tax agreement" observed by other states (consumption taxes).

Tax Reform “Draft” Recommendations

GCSS recommendations for tax reform:

1. Restore the 10% cigarette tax (and use to restore the OHP)
2. Increase the minimum corporate income tax from \$10 to \$300.
3. Reduce tax deductions that no longer meet a critical need or do not serve their stated purpose such as creating jobs.
4. Create a “rainy day fund”
5. 5 % sales tax

MOTION: Recommend to the full Commission that we send a letter to the Joint Interim Committee on Tax Reform expressing our appreciation in their efforts, to proceed with caution, and to include GCSS recommendations for tax reform.
(Tim Malone) Passed

Action Item:	Assigned To:	Deadline:
Send a letter to the Joint Interim Committee on Tax Reform.	Jane-ellen	

The “New Front Door” Update

Helen still has concerns with the process and the goal of the “New Front Door.”

Advocacy Enhancement Project Workgroup Update

The workgroup, to prepare for their scheduled meetings, will be considering what are the best practices in advocacy. They also intend to ask local Advisory Councils, “How can we increase and improve local advocates?” and “How do we help develop advocates?” They will be in the process of developing technical information and developing a network. They will support local volunteers and coordinators. The process has slowed down to insure strategies and resources.

Intergeneration Project

Ruth Shepherd discussed intergenerational issues, and ways to reach out to children advocates.

Next Meeting

- Intergenerational Issues – Ruth Shepherd
- Update on Joint Interim Committee on Tax Reform
- Review Legislative Matrix