



State Senator • 19th District Mark **SCHAUER**

Savings for Seniors

Assistance Available to Lower Prescription Drug Costs

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The rising costs of food, gas and energy are making it harder for

everyone to afford prescription drug medications.

Seniors who do not have

prescription drug coverage can now apply for the MiRx prescription drug discount card. The card is free and easy to use. For more information or to request an application, call **1-800-259-8016** or **1-866-755-6479** (Press 2, then 1), or visit

www.mihealth.org/mirx/index.html



Medicare beneficiaries can find out information about Medicare Prescription Drug Plans and potential savings by

calling **1-800-MEDICARE** (1-800-633-4227). To find prescription plans in your area online, go to www.Medicare.gov, page down to "Learn More About Plans in Your Area," and enter your state, then county.

Schauer Supports Tax Help for Seniors

Senator Schauer recently co-sponsored Senate Bills 1273 and 1274 to help seniors and families who care for them, save money.



Senate Bill 1273 would establish a tax credit for residents who care for their parents in their homes for 180 days or more in a calendar year. The credit would be pro-rated up to \$1,000. Providing this credit to adult children who provide care for a senior in the family's home, where many seniors may feel more comfortable, could potentially save the state millions of dollars.

Senate Bill 1274 would ensure that senior citizens who are living away from home in

order to receive care — at a nursing home, or in a family member's home — will still qualify for the principal residence property tax exemption on the home they own. This bill would allow a senior citizen to maintain their principal residence

exemption even if they must be away from home for an indefinite time due to health reasons. This bill responds to the recent denial of homestead exemptions for some seniors because they were not living in their principal residences.

"Providing support for seniors and helping families take care of each other is the right thing to do."

— Senator Schauer



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Safeguard Your Finances from Scam Artists

Senior citizens are often targeted for identity theft and potential fraud. The Federal Trade Commission reports that scam artists have recently been calling seniors, pretending to be the IRS or the Social Security Administration, claiming they need personal information to deposit your federal stimulus tax rebate.

Newly introduced legislation sponsored by Senator Schauer seeks to prevent financial exploitation and similar crimes against seniors by making it easier for seniors to testify in

court to fight back against these crimes, and by increasing the financial and criminal penalties for people who commit them.

It's also important for seniors to learn how to recognize scams on their own and to keep their personal information safe.

Tips from the AARP on How to Protect Yourself From Fraud

- Keep your personal information as private as possible.
- If you feel uncomfortable

speaking with someone, end the conversation. The more time you spend speaking with someone, the better chance they can trick you into giving out information.

- Only carry what you really need in your wallet and know where to call if a credit card or other identification is lost or stolen.

You can also visit

<http://michigan.gov/miseniors> or call **517-373-8230** to learn more about what you can do to protect yourself from financial exploitation.

Bipartisan Solutions Needed to Protect Social Security, Retirement Funds

Senator Schauer is a strong supporter of the bipartisan 'Divided We Fail' effort, sponsored in part by AARP, to help ensure greater long-term financial security for all. Schauer introduced Senate Resolution 160 to encourage bipartisan cooperation on the issue.

The Divided We Fail initiative calls for strengthening social security without burdening future generations, ensuring access to effective retirement plans, and providing financial incentives for workers to save more. To learn more about the Divided We Fail platform, visit www.dividedwefail.org or call AARP of Michigan at **1-866-227-7448**.

Save Money This Summer and Support the Local Economy

To save money on traveling and vacations this summer, take pleasure in what Michigan has to offer. Enjoy fireworks at Jackson County's Cascades Falls Park, live music in downtown Jackson at the Picnic in the Park Concert Series or try a walk down the Falling Water Trail. For more information about travel and tourism in Michigan, visit www.michigan.org or call toll-free **800-644-2489**.

