



Meeting the Needs of Older Kansans

Testimony

**Natural Resources Committee
February 2012**

**Kansas Area Agencies on Aging Association (K4A)
SB314 - Oppose**

The Kansas Area Agencies on Aging Association (K4A) represents the 11 Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) in Kansas, collectively serving all 105 counties in the state.

My name is Janis DeBoer, Executive Director of the Kansas Area Agencies on Aging Association. I represent the eleven Area Agencies on Aging not-for-profit and county-based organizations across the State of Kansas.

Area Agencies on Aging were established under the federal Older Americans Act in 1973. They are charged with advocating for seniors.

I am here today to oppose SB314. We oppose eliminating the fishing and hunting license exemption for persons 65 years of age and older.

While we appreciate the need to fund the Department of Wildlife, Parks and Tourism's budget, now is not the time to ask seniors to foot the bill. The Kansas economy and Governor's budget situation appear to be improving while the majority of incomes for Seniors across the State of Kansas remain fixed.

If my query of the U.S. Census Bureau data is accurate, the mean retirement income of Kansas seniors was \$18,381 in the past 12 months (in 2010 inflation-adjusted dollars).

Also, it should be noted, the 376,116 Seniors across Kansas (2010 U.S. Census Bureau data) who may choose to purchase a fishing or hunting license make up the Greatest and Silent Generations, as opposed to Baby Boomers. Boomers only began turning 65 in **January of 2011**. If the Department needs to broaden its funding base, they should be able to more accurately project the demands of a growing constituency base and respond accordingly.

The vast majority of seniors who will be negatively impacted by SB314 are today's seniors; they are our parents and grandparents, many of whom live on fixed incomes.

Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) provide and coordinate services for Kansas seniors, including information and assistance, assessments for community-and-facility-based services, referral, and case management. Since 1997, AAAs have served as the "single point of entry" in Kansas for seniors. The AAA network receives funding from federal, state, and local governments, and is locally administered. As such, service delivery decisions are made at the local community level which is closest to the seniors needing services.

Kansas Area Agencies on Aging are part of a national network of 629 AAAs and 246 Title VI organizations. Area Agencies on Aging were established under the Older Americans Act (OAA) in 1973 to respond to the needs of seniors and caregivers in every local community.

K4A works to improve services and supports for all older Kansans, their families and caregivers.

If you have questions, please feel free to contact: Janis DeBoer, K4A, janis@k4a.org or 785.267.1336

