

Silver Virginia: A Plan to Stand Up For Virginia's Seniors

Virginia's older citizens built the backbone of this Commonwealth and this country. They built our economy and our infrastructure, plowed our fields, and raised a generation of Virginians. They have invested their lives in our nation and in Virginia, and Virginia has an obligation to stand up for them. As governor, he will fight to ensure that they are able to enjoy their lives in dignity and security.

As a prosecutor and legislative leader, Brian Moran has a record of standing up to protect our seniors. As a legislator, Brian Moran championed increasing reimbursements for personal care workers and incentives for long-term care insurance. As a legislative leader, he proposed and passed legislation to raise penalties for those who abuse or neglect incapacitated adults. He also led the fight to protect seniors from those who would abuse their trust by abusing their power of attorney. Brian made sure that holders of powers of attorney are accountable for their financial actions. As governor, Brian Moran will continue fighting to protect Virginia's seniors.

Giving Our Seniors a Seat at the Table

It is past time that Virginia gave our seniors a seat at the table. The number of older Virginians will grow dramatically over the next 20 years. By next year persons over age 60 will comprise almost 20% of Virginia's population.¹ By 2030, one in four Virginians will be over the age of 60, a 120% increase from 2000.² As governor, Brian Moran will make aging issues a top priority. In the Moran Administration, there will be a Special Assistant for Aging who coordinates state services across secretariats and agencies and reports directly to the governor.

¹ "Impact of an Aging Population on State Agencies," *Joint Legislative Audit and Review Commission*, January 2006.
<http://jlarc.state.va.us/>.

² Id.

Caring for Virginia's Greatest Generation

As governor, Brian Moran will invest in services that help older Virginians remain independent and in their homes as long as possible. He is committed to eliminating waiting lists for home-delivered meals by the end of his term and to investing in in-home services and respite care. He will also provide grants for innovative partnerships between area agencies on aging and local departments of social services.

As governor, he will work to improve access to and the quality of long-term care. He will work to provide older Virginians a clear and simple gateway to get the services they need. He will also support long-term care alternatives, such as Virginia's PACE (Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly) for all-inclusive care that provides social, medical and personal care services in one package, so that seniors can age with dignity in their own homes. Brian Moran is also committed to strengthening Virginia's long-term care accountability and watchdog efforts to protect older Virginians.

Older Virginians should receive the high-quality care they deserve. Brian Moran will work to develop and fund innovative approaches to recruiting, training and paying a decent wage to direct-care providers such as certified

nursing assistants, home health aides, and home-based services providers. He supports strengthening Virginia's Auxiliary Grant program so that older Virginians can afford quality assisted living services. He supports ensuring that all licensed health care professionals undergo periodic evaluation of their knowledge and skills as a condition of re-licensure. Brian Moran will also create a web-accessible quality ratings system for assisted living facilities so that consumers and their families can find the best one for them.

Lowering Energy Costs for Seniors

Virginia's seniors should never have to choose between paying the utility bills and paying the doctor's bills. That is why Brian Moran will expand Virginia's weatherization program to help low-income Virginians invest in energy efficiency and reduce their heating and cooling bills. Brian Moran will make low-income seniors and seniors on fixed incomes a priority, protecting both our seniors and our environment.-Brian Moran will also increase funding to the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program when costs increase rapidly or winters are particularly cold.

Ensuring Retirement Security For Virginia's Small Business Employees

Today, Virginia's seniors and those looking toward retirement are facing economic challenges unlike any since the Great Depression. The same is true for those who hope to retire in the coming years. Unfortunately, too many of Virginia's small businesses are unable to offer quality retirement benefits to their employees. Virginia's small businesses and their workers deserve better. That is why, as governor, Brian Moran will support Retirement Savings Plans for Small Business Employees through Virginia Employee Voluntary Accounts (VEVA's). These accounts would allow small businesses with less than 50 employees to benefit from economies of scale by reducing the expenses of offering employees voluntary enrollment in a retirement savings system. Virginia's small businesses and small business employees deserve retirement security, and, as governor, Brian Moran will fight to make this a reality for more of Virginians.

Protecting Our Seniors

As a former prosecutor, Brian Moran knows that we have no more serious responsibility than to care for the physical and financial wellbeing of our seniors. That is why he believes that the 14,314 cases of reported elder and

vulnerable adult abuse in Virginia in 2008 were unacceptably high.³ Unfortunately, the problem is getting worse, not better. As governor, Brian Moran will protect the safety of seniors and other vulnerable adults in nursing homes and assisted living facilities by developing alternative long-term care services for registered sex offenders, parolees and others with violent histories. Our parents and grandparents and their families deserve the peace of mind of knowing that they are living in safe environments.

Brian Moran will also increase punishments for those who seek to harm Virginia's seniors either physically or financially. As governor, he will increase fines for those who financially exploit our seniors and vulnerable adults. He will also work with Virginia's financial institutions to ensure that their employees are trained to detect elder fraud and financial abuse, because in these tough economic times, we must make protecting the financial security of our seniors a priority. While Virginia's criminal laws include abuse, neglect and financial exploitation of seniors and vulnerable adults illegal, those charges cannot be brought independent of other crimes. Brian Moran will change this to make it easier for Virginia's prosecutors to stand up for seniors and put those who do them harm behind bars.

³ "Adult Services Fact Sheet," *Virginia Department of Social Services*. 2008.
<http://www.dss.virginia.gov/geninfo/reports/adults/as.cgi>