



**Puget
Sound
Advocates For
Retirement
Action**

PSARA 2022 Legislative Agenda

PSARA is a multi-generational grass roots organization advocating for seniors, in particular, and all people to be able to live their lives with economic security, dignity, and respect.

We oppose cuts to programs that provide vital services to seniors, children, and low- and moderate-income families.

HEALTH CARE

PSARA supports affordable medical, dental, hearing, and vision benefits. These issues are vital to health and the ability to live a productive life as we age.

- Include a budget proviso in the supplemental budget that provides funding to the OIC to contract for an actuarial study of the possible impacts of mandating guaranteed issue of Medigap insurance in Washington for all Medicare beneficiaries.

- Legislate to protect against surprise medical billings
- Make necessary changes to the WA Cares Fund that would:
 - extend access to benefits for people near retirement, HB 1732.
 - allow exemptions for people who reside out-of-state, on temporary work assignments, or military dependents, HB 1733.
 - determine how to allow people who retire outside the state to access WA Care Fund benefits for which they have paid through payroll deductions.

CLEAN AND JUST TRANSPORTATION

PSARA supports a clean and just transportation system. As we age and become more dependent on public transportation, the system needs changes to be sustainable and affordable.

- Transportation Budget should increase expenditure in public, accessible transportation.
- Expand the Transportation Benefit Authority to secure new sources of revenue.

ENVIRONMENTAL AND ENERGY

PSARA supports the passage of HJR 4205 to amend the state constitution to provide all the people of the state the right to a clean and healthy environment.

Pass SB1099 to update the State Comprehensive Plan framework to improve climate response.

HOUSING AND HOMELESSNESS

Make it possible for seniors to remain in their homes and provide the funding necessary to eliminate the tragedy of unhoused people.

- Repeal the 1981 law that prohibits cities from enacting rent control.
- Allocate \$400 million to the State Housing Trust Fund to provide more low-income housing.

FISCAL REFORM

PSARA supports a state budget that is transparent and provides the necessary funds for vital social services and requires payment of living wages to be paid to workers who provide human services.

- Support HB1406, which would create a wealth tax and tax extraordinary financial assets.
- Support HB1465, which would establish a more progressive estate tax.
- Create a State Investment Trust Bank.
- Eliminate tax exemptions that do not have a demonstrated public benefit and include a sunset clause on all future tax exemptions.