



SENIOR & DISABILITY *ACTION* News and Views

Volume 6 Issue 2

April/May 2018

SDA 2018 Advocacy Agenda

Senior and Disability Action has developed the following priorities for the year. We invite all members and partners to join efforts to make these critical changes!

- **Housing:** Repeal Costa-Hawkins to allow for tenant protections statewide!
Costa-Hawkins is a state law that restricts rent control and encourages landlords to push out long-time tenants and dramatically increase rents. We will work to organize tenants and educate people, to improve tenant rights and ensure people can stay in their homes.

- **Pedestrian Safety:** Make it safer for seniors and people with disabilities to cross streets and get around the city!
We will increase the time allowed for people to get across the street and pursue other street changes, so that seniors and people with disabilities can get out safely and participate in the community.

- **Long-term care/ long-term services and supports:** Explore how San Francisco can support quality long-term services options.
Create a community conversation on home care, nursing homes, and other long-term services and supports, considering issues such as medical needs, isolation, housing displacement, and personal wishes.

Other key campaigns for 2018:

Increase rental subsidies for seniors and people with disabilities.

Ensure legal representation for all tenants facing eviction (Prop. F on the June ballot).

Create more low-income housing for seniors and people with disabilities.

Fight for single-payer health care, with long-term services and supports included.

Pass AB 2314, a state bill that seeks to promote fair labor standards for domestic workers by educating workers and employers, including seniors and people with disabilities who hire home attendants/caregivers.

Increase state SSI payments ("100for100" -- increase SSI by \$100 to get people above 100% of the federal poverty level).

Fight federal tax cuts, especially in health care and housing.

Please note: SDA will be closed Friday, March 30th for Cesar Chavez Day and Tuesday May 1st for International Workers' Day.

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Mayoral Candidate Forums

San Francisco needs a Mayor who recognizes that seniors and people with disabilities make up one-quarter of our city, and that we contribute to the community. For the first time, this spring there are two events focused on senior and disability issues in the mayoral race. The events have different formats, but both offer a chance to hear from Jane Kim, Mark Leno, London Breed, Angela Alioto, and other candidates, about their positions on housing, transportation, home care, and other issues affecting seniors and people with disabilities. Perhaps even more importantly, both events are an opportunity for the candidates to hear from us directly and make sure that the next Mayor will address our concerns!

MAYORAL CANDIDATE FORUM AND RECEPTION

Hear what your candidates say about protecting and improving Medicare, Medicaid and Social Security, Affordable Housing, Long Term Care, and other Senior and Disability Issues

THURSDAY, APRIL 12, 2018

1:00 pm – 4:00 pm (right after SDA General Meeting)

Unitarian Universalist Church, 1187 Franklin St., San Francisco

Translation available in Spanish and Chinese

All Mayoral candidates are invited. Open to the public but RSVP required!

Call 415-546-1333 or email ligia@sdaction.org to RSVP

Light Refreshments Provided

Co-Sponsors: California Alliance for Retired Americans (CARA), Community Living Campaign, AFT 2121, FDR Democratic Club, Gray Panthers, HANC, OWL-SF, PDA-SF, Protect our Benefits, Senior and Disability Action, Coalition of Agencies Serving the Elderly (CASE), AIDS Legal Referral Panel, Living Wage Coalition of SF, Care Council of the Bay Area, SEIU 1021 Retirees (partial list)

CITY-WIDE MAYORAL CANDIDATE TOWN HALL

To address the needs and concerns of seniors and people with disabilities.

THURSDAY, APRIL 26, 2018

10:30am – 12:00pm

Herbst Theatre, 401 Van Ness Avenue

Confirmed candidates: **Angela Alioto, London Breed, Jane Kim, Mark Leno**

RSVP Now! Web: www.dignitymayoraltownhall.eventbrite.com

Tel: 415-400-7546

Sponsored by the Dignity Fund Coalition, which advocates for city-wide awareness and solutions for San Francisco's growing population of seniors and people with disabilities. Our goal is to ensure that San Francisco continues to thrive with the presence and contributions of everyone. Read more at www.sfdignityfund.org

Benefits and Advocacy!

Qualifying for Social Security Disability Benefits (from SSD-Help.org)

Social Security disability benefits are offered for people of all ages who are unable to work and earn income due to a serious injury or lifelong illness. If you or someone you love is unable to work, you might be eligible for assistance. If you receive Social Security benefits, you can spend the monthly payments on your healthcare needs, any household bills, childcare, and any other daily living needs.

There are two criteria you'll need to meet to be approved for Social Security disability: Technical criteria, and medical criteria.

Technically Qualifying for Social Security Disability

There are two forms of benefits available for people with disabilities: Social Security Disability Insurance ([SSDI](#)) and Supplemental Security Income ([SSI](#)).

SSDI benefits are for adults who have worked and have become disabled due to a recent injury or illness. To qualify for SSDI, you'll need to have paid taxes throughout life. So long as you've earned at least \$5,000 in [taxable income](#) per year, you'll qualify. The more income you earned yearly, the higher your SSDI payment will be.

SSI benefits are for people of all ages and have no work history requirements. While you won't need to have worked throughout adulthood to qualify, there are strict financial limitations for SSI recipients. Anyone on SSI cannot have more than \$2,000 in saved cash or "assets," which include a second home or car. (continued on page 4)

Make your voice heard! Come to Sacramento with SDA twice this spring!

Senior Rally Day Tuesday May 8th State Capitol Building

Rally with Seniors from all over the state! Legislative visits to our representatives!

For more info or to RSVP, please contact Ligia at (415) 546-1333 ext. 302

14th Annual Disability Capitol Action Day Thursday, June 7, 2018 Cesar Chavez Plaza & State Capitol Sacramento, CA

Join us on this awesome trip to the Capitol! It's an opportunity for people of cross disabilities, their families and allies to come together in solidarity to learn about disability community resources, become educated on potential policies that could impact our daily lives and educate policy makers on the issues we care about most. Transportation will leave from San Francisco and lunch will be provided. To RSVP, please contact Ligia at SDA at (415) 546-1333 ext. 302

Social Security and SSI

SSI recipients around the state have been speaking out about SSI. In a listening session on Tuesday, March 6, HAT members and other SSI recipients in San Francisco shared their stories and expressed what they would like to see happen with SSI. They expressed their support for the campaign “\$100 for 100%”, which means a \$100 increase to move SSI recipients to the 100% federal poverty line.

Listening session participants learned that allowing SSI recipients, who aren't now eligible for food stamps, to qualify for food stamps might end up hurting mixed income households. (The current policy is called Cash-Out.) Participants said they did not want to proceed with ending the Cash-Out policy without making sure that there was a no-harm provision for those households.

On Wednesday, March 14th, legislators held a hearing with SSI recipients and advocates regarding the latest SSI bill, AB 3200, that asks for an increment/restoration of \$100 to lift up SSI recipients to 100% of the poverty line. The hearing also addressed the need to end the Cash-Out policy and include a no-harm provision to protect families from potential food stamp loss. Members of HAT attended the hearing and spoke. The stories were hard and candid and the legislators supported the plea.



SDA staff and members with the San Francisco delegation to the March 14th listening session in Sacramento

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Medically Qualifying for Social Security Benefits

The SSA uses a medical guide known as the [Blue Book](#) to evaluate any Social Security disability applicants and award benefits accordingly. Qualifying for benefits will completely depend on whatever diagnosis you or your loved one has.

The entire Blue Book is available online, so you can review it with your doctor to determine whether or not you or your loved one is eligible for Social Security benefits.

Starting Your Application

SSDI applicants can apply for Social Security disability benefits [online](#). If you're unable to type, you can ask someone to apply on your behalf.

SSI applicants will need to apply in person at their [closest SSA office](#). If you're applying on behalf of someone, he or she does not need to actually be present at your local office. It's always a good idea to review the [Disability Starter Kit](#) before applying to ensure you have all necessary paperwork and personal information prepared when applying.

Most claims are approved within five months. Once you're enrolled, you can focus on what's important: Living a fulfilling life.

Show some love for SDA!

Senior and Disability Action Cadillac Grill Fundraiser!

Tuesday, April 10th, 3-6 pm
Cadillac Bar & Grill, 44 9th Street
(between Market & Mission,
right around the corner from SDA)



Last year was so much fun, we're doing it again!

Bring your friends, catch up with SDA folks, and get margaritas, chips & guacamole, tacos or enchiladas! 10% of the sales will support Senior and Disability Action's work on housing, healthcare, and pedestrian safety. Takeout available too!



San Francisco's Favorite Hardware Stores

PARTNERSHIP!

***COLE HARDWARE GIVES SDA 10%
OF YOUR PURCHASES!***

*SDA is a member of Cole Hardware's School and
Community Partnership program.*

Cole Hardware gives 10% of purchases made by you, every day of the year.

The more you spend, the more you donate to us!

Ask the cashier to post your purchase to Senior and Disability Action.

965 Cole St. 70 Fourth St. 2254 Polk St. 345 Ninth Street 627 Vallejo
(415) 319-6705 (415) 200-3444 (415) 200-3370 (415) 200-2154 (415) 200-2215

Community Thrift

When you donate to Community Thrift Store (623 Valencia Street), you can choose Senior and Disability Action to receive the proceeds from the sale of furniture, clothing or household items. Community Thrift disburses funds to SDA, minus operation costs, on a quarterly basis.

Whether you are moving or doing your annual spring cleaning, Community Thrift can put your unwanted items to good use!

And, of course, you can buy great items too. Call 415.861.4910.

Visit www.communitythrifsf.org

Housing and Safety

The history of Iris Canada's eviction & death cannot be erased for profit!

By a unanimous vote at the Planning Commission hearing on March 8, the condo conversion of the six unit Western Addition building, Iris's home for more than 50 years, was denied! SDA and our San Francisco community fought hard to stop the eviction of this 100 year old senior, but on February 10, 2017 Sheriff Hennessey carried out the eviction, and Iris Canada, unable to survive the subsequent stroke, died on March 25.

When New England owner Peter Owens & the TIC residents filed for condo conversion of Iris's Page Street building, our SF Anti-Displacement Coalition filed a letter with the Planning Commission to oppose the conversion. At the initial hearing in January, our members testified that in 2002 Owens purchased the building, filed an Ellis Act Eviction notice 10 days later, evicting the 10 tenants, and within 14 months from purchase date had renovated and sold five of the six units as TICs (Tenancies In Common). Iris Canada, who had a "Life Estate," was in the end evicted and died. These are the indisputable facts. The condo conversion applicants "misrepresented" the building history, the fact that people lost their homes in order to make room for others to profit. The commissioners voted 6-0 for an "intent to deny" and continued the hearing to allow the Planning Department time to re-evaluate the case given the testimony and contradicting facts for the application for conversion. Finally, on March 8 all seven Planning Commissioners voted to deny the conversion. This decision sends an important message to landlords that they will not be able to make money off immoral evictions!

Preventing Elder Abuse

Elder abuse is more common than we think. Most people assume only physical abuse counts or only strangers can commit such a crime; however, family members and close friends or care takers may be involved. Elder abuse includes but is not limited to physical, sexual, or financial abuse or neglect. Physical abuse can be slapping, hitting, choking, pushing, or restraining. Threatening, isolating, targeting individuals' vulnerabilities and neglect are common types of abuse. Sexual abuse is known to be perpetrated by family members and/or caretakers. Examples of sexual abuse are making demeaning remarks, being rough with intimate body parts during caregiving, unwanted touching and/or forcing sexual acts. The most familiar abuse is financial abuse. This can happen to anyone but seniors and people with disabilities are most likely to be targeted. Financial abuse can be scams such as: internet fraud, prize winning, telemarketing/phone scams, fraudulent anti-aging products, funeral & cemetery scams, counterfeit prescription drugs, and more.

Please be aware that Medicare will be sending all recipients a new card with a NEW Medicare number, switching out your Social Security number for a Medicare number to protect you. NEVER give your social security number to anyone over the phone.

If you or someone you know experiences abuse, please call the Department of Aging and Adult Services at 415-355-6700. To request an elder abuse presentation for your building or center, please reach Alice at SDA at 415-546-1333 or alice@sdaction.org.

Community Calendar: April/May 2018

DATE	ACTIVITY	TIME & PLACE	MORE INFO?
Mon-Fri	Computer Open Lab and Beginning Computer Classes	Mon-Fri 9:00 AM-4:00 PM 1360 Mission Street Suite 400 Classes Tues/Weds. 9:30-2	Pi Ra 415-546-2096
1st Thursday April 5th May 3rd	IHSS Task Force Meeting	10:30 AM 1360 Mission St. #400	Jessica Lehman 415-546-1333 x301
1st Thursday April 5th May 3rd	SDA Board Meeting	4:00-6:00 PM 1360 Mission St. #400	Jessica Lehman 415-546-1333 x301
2nd Thursday April 12th (note change)	SDA General Meeting	11:30 AM 1187 Franklin Street (please stay for the Mayoral Forum at 1 PM directly after)	SDA 415-546-1333
2nd Thursday April 12th	Mayoral Forum and Reception	1-4 PM 1187 Franklin Street	Jodi Reid 550-0828
2nd Tuesday April 10th May 8th	HealthCare Action Team (HAT)	11 AM ILRC 825 Howard	Ligia Montano 415-546-1333 x302
3rd Wednesday April 18th May 16th	SDA Housing Collaborative	1-3 PM 1360 Mission Street, #400	Tony Robles 415-546-1333 x305
3rd Friday April 20th May 18th	Mayor's Disability Council	1-4 PM City Hall Room 400	Mayor's Office on Disability 415-554-6789
2nd Thursday May 10	SDA General Meeting	10 AM-12 noon 1187 Franklin Street	SDA 415-546-1333
2nd Thursday May 10	CARA meeting	1-2:30 PM ILWU Building, 1188 Franklin St. #4 @Geary	Jodi Reid 550-0828

SDA April General Meeting

Thursday April 12 11:30-12:30
Before the Mayoral Candidates Forum

Hear about our advocacy agenda for the year!

Get program updates!

12:00 Noon for lunch (\$2)

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Senior and Disability Action News and Views

SDA is looking for a like-minded organization to share space with us in our office at 1360 Mission Street. We have up to 3 private office rooms available to rent. Each office is just over 100 square feet. The office rental includes access to our conference room, kitchen and computer lab, as well as use of the water cooler, copier and utilities. Must be willing to carry out our scent free policy for staff and visitors to the office. Please contact Sarah at (415) 546-1333 ext 307 or sarah@sdaction.org if you would like more information or would like to see the space available.

Become a Member of Senior and Disability Action!!

Dues are \$20/year *OR* according to your means. Pay more or less as you are able.

Name: _____ Renewal

Address: _____ City: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ Cell Home Work

Phone: _____ Cell Home Work

Email: _____

Interests: Housing Healthcare Long-term care & supports

Community education Computer training Pedestrian safety & transit Other: _____

How would you like to receive newsletters & postcards? Email Postal mail

Please send dues to: SDA, 1360 Mission St. #400, San Francisco CA 94103