



**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **MA4 Responds To Greitens' State of the State Address**

**Jefferson City, Mo.** - The Missouri Association of Area Agencies on Aging (MA4) released the following statement in response to the State of the State message presented by Missouri Governor Eric Greitens on January 10, 2018:

*"Earlier this year, the Missouri Association of Area Agencies on Aging (MA4) announced its major legislative priorities for 2018. Those priorities, all of which support Missouri's senior population, included: the establishment of a Senior Growth and Development Fund; full funding for programs administered statewide by the Area Agencies on Aging; protection of the MORx prescription drug program and Circuit Breaker tax credit program for renters; and promotion of revenue enhancement strategies for the overall Missouri state budget.*

*We realize that creating a balanced budget that is fair to all Missourians is a difficult responsibility and that one speech does not define the work that will continue as our elected officials craft a final budget for the year. Although we were disheartened that the Governor's speech did not mention any of the critical policies we have identified that will help our senior population, we know that there is broad support among Missouri's citizenry and our legislative representatives to protect seniors. We also know that every time we make cuts to fundamental services like health care, nutrition and independent living programs, the taxpayers end up paying more in the long run.*

*We will continue to work with the Governor's office and the members of the Missouri General Assembly to create a budget that will make seniors a priority and that achieves the goals of balance, parity and fairness that all Missourians expect."*

For more information, contact Catherine Edwards, Executive Director of MA4, at [cedwards@ma4web.org](mailto:cedwards@ma4web.org).

### **About The Missouri Association of Area Agencies on Aging (MA4)**

The Missouri Association of Area Agencies on Aging (MA4) was founded in 1973 to serve as a statewide advocate and resource for older Missourians. MA4 is comprised of the state's 10 Area Agencies on Aging (AAA), which were created under the 1973 amendments to the Older American's Act of 1965. For 45 years, these local agencies have been providing vital services, programs and information to millions of Missourians and their caregivers, including legal services, home-delivered meals, disease prevention and health promotion,

transportation, public benefits counseling, senior center services and activities and in-home services. The 10 Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) provide a coordinated network of care in implementing statewide initiatives, which are designed to help older Missourians maintain their independence and give them a voice in articulating their concerns and changing needs.

As the official statewide association of these agencies, MA4 is dedicated to carrying out its mission of service, information and advocacy to improve the lives of older Missourians and to plan for the changes that will take place as the aging population grows in number and importance in the next decade.

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(NOTE: Follow MA4 on Twitter at: @ma4voice)