

24 So the Commission is pleased to welcome its  
25 12th participant, Amy Mills.

1 MS. MILLS: Thank you. Good afternoon. I am  
2 Amy Mills. I'm from the area Agency on Aging 1-B,  
3 which is located here in Southfield. We're an  
4 advocacy agency and we also provide services to keep  
5 seniors in their homes and living independently as  
6 long as possible.

7 The reason I came here today was to tell you  
8 a little bit about our -- one of our programs, which  
9 happens to be Home Injury Control, which is something  
10 that provides services to keep the seniors in their  
11 homes and safe. So not only does it keep them there,  
12 but it also provides assistance to make sure that  
13 they're not falling, they can get around their homes  
14 safely, and that's the reason I'm here.

15 One thing I wanted to tell you about is that  
16 for the last five years we have successfully partnered  
17 with Blue Cross and Blue Shield with funding and also  
18 with the home safety program, and I wanted to go into  
19 detail a little bit about that with you.

20 Unfortunately, the funding did end this year,  
21 at no fault to the AAA 1-B or with Blue Cross Blue  
22 Shield. They just have decided to focus on other  
23 areas of health and nutrition.

24 For the last five years, the area Agency on  
25 Aging 1-B has received \$20,000 each year from Blue

1 Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan to support the  
2 installation of safety devices into the homes of older  
3 adults. And this cooperative effort was developed to  
4 enhance the Blue Cross and Blue Shield of Michigan  
5 health agenda and to further the area Agency on Aging  
6 1-B mission to assist older persons with maintaining  
7 good health and independence.

8 Basically, our region covers Livingston,

9 Macomb, Monroe, Oakland, St. Clair, and Washtenaw.  
10 And the types of devices that we install into these  
11 areas are grab bars, raised toilet seats, bath chairs,  
12 transfer benches, hand railings, hand-held showers,  
13 canes, walkers, devices like this that really make the  
14 seniors feel more safe and independent.

15       These devices really are key to keeping  
16 seniors in an outpatient setting, more different than  
17 what we've been hearing about, you know, more about  
18 inpatient setting. This is more for the outpatient  
19 setting.

20       And as you can see with these outcomes, we  
21 have actually assisted over 2,000 senior homes and  
22 actually installed over 3,500 devices in the last five  
23 years, which is a very significant amount.

24       Also another thing that I wanted to point out  
25 that these devices have prevented numerous falls and

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1 helped the older adults feel more secure.

2       In fact, the majority of the older adults  
3 that were surveyed indicated that they feel more  
4 secure with the devices and have not fallen since they  
5 were installed.

6       Although the frequently requested items like  
7 transfer benches and grab bars were once again the  
8 continuing theme this year and in the previous years,  
9 we did see a strong need for larger items like outdoor  
10 railings and ramps. This is a big, big need. This is  
11 a big request. And it's something that requires a lot  
12 more funding and a lot more manpower, I would say,  
13 because these are big ticket items. We find this to  
14 be a really big need for seniors today.

15       And providing these items that I have talked  
16 about really abates the fear of the seniors falling in  
17 their homes and makes them feel more secure as they  
18 tend to grow older and of course, you know, try to  
19 remain as independent as possible in their own homes.

20       So this is just something that I wanted to  
21 bring to you and make sure that it's something that,

22 you know, constantly focused on, you know, throughout  
23 the state, that, you know, these senior needs are also  
24 something that needs to be focused on to keep them in  
25 their homes for as long as possible.

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1 So if there's any questions...yes.

2 MS. McDONALD: We are interested in safety  
3 across the whole continuum. I mean, that is one of  
4 our charges. So your funding is not there any longer?

5 MS. MILLS: We do have funding through the  
6 Home Injury Control through the State and Federal  
7 dollars.

8 MS. McDONALD: So you have enough to continue  
9 your program at some level?

10 MS. MILLS: We do. We do.

11 MS. McDONALD: And is this program in place  
12 in other regions, AAA regions in Michigan?

13 MS. MILLS: Yes, it is. Yes, it is.

14 MS. McDONALD: So it's just a very basic  
15 patient safety-at-home kind of effort?

16 MS. MILLS: It is. It's more basic. This  
17 funding was very helpful. It kind of added a little  
18 bit more so we were able to install, like I said, the  
19 3,500 additional devices into the people's homes.

20 MS. McDONALD: And so this is really not a  
21 high ticket item other than when you get into building  
22 ramps and so on? I mean, putting bars in and simple  
23 kinds of things?

24 MS. MILLS: Simple kinds of things, exactly,  
25 yeah, but would also provide that much more security

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1 and assistance.

2 MS. McDONALD: And most of them are not high  
3 ticket items?

4 MS. MILLS: No.

5 MS. McDONALD: I mean, not expensive items,  
6 other than we understand the ramps and so on?

7 MS. MILLS: Correct. Correct.

8 DR. SIMMER: Thank you very much.  
9 MS. MILLS: Thank you.