Edward M. Kennedy

Senator Edward M. "Ted" Kennedy has left us a great legacy and great challenges to meet.

As our Senator, Ted Kennedy stood beside Massachusetts Seniors, and older adults throughout our nation, as a champion for the dignity of life in our later years. In 2006, MAOA presented Senator Kennedy with its highly prized Elsie Frank Elder Advocacy Award.

Ted Kennedy worked to protect Social Security and Medicare; to enable Medicaid to cover some in-home long-term care options; to provide coverage for illness prevention services under federal health insurance plans; to make sure some in-home long-term care options; to provide coverage for illness prevention services under federal health insurance plans; to make sure vulnerable in our city. He’s brought countless residents a helping hand at the times they needed it the most, and he’s enabled them to become his public speaking skills were up to the task of telling the press: “For 45 years, Bob Coard has been the conscience for the promotion of social, health and economic security for Massachusetts’ elders."

Ted Kennedy led the way in the struggle for national health care and insurance reform for over four decades. He gave his first speech calling for national health insurance for all Americans in 1969. In 1971, he became Chairman of the Senate Health Subcommittee and held a series of hearings around the country on national health insurance. He never quit the fight for better health care for all Americans in 1969. In 1971, he became Chairman of the Senate Health Subcommittee and held a series of hearings around the country on national health insurance. He never quit the fight for better health care for all Americans. Ted Kennedy served as MAOA’s keynote speaker for its 40th Anniversary celebration September 24th at the Radisson Hotel in Boston.

Bob Coard is consistently applauded for his strong advocacy on issues affecting the poor and his significant influence on public policy. He recently announced that he will retire on November 1, 2009.

MAOA is the oldest statewide elder advocacy organization in Massachusetts. Founded by retired union organizer Frank J. Manning and a small group of retired men and women in 1969, it is an independent, non-profit, grassroots advocacy and educational organization. Since its beginning, MAOA has been the conscience for the promotion of social, health and economic security for Massachusetts’ elders.

MAOA will present its prized Elsie Frank Elder Advocacy Award to Action for Boston Community Development (ABCD) President and CEO Robert M. Coard at its 40th Anniversary celebration September 24th at the Radisson Hotel in Boston.

Bob Coard is consistently applauded for his strong advocacy on issues affecting the poor and his significant influence on public policy. He recently announced that he will retire on November 1, 2009.

U. S. Senator Ted Kennedy said it best, telling the press: “For 45 years, Bob Coard has been an irresistible advocate for the most vulnerable in our city. He’s brought countless residents a helping hand at the times they needed it the most, and he’s enabled them to become...”
Healthy Aging, Economic Security: Important Goals for MAOA and You

by Bob Green, MAOA President

As we look forward to the next 40 years, the need for education and advocacy for Seniors appears likely to increase because the number of Seniors are rapidly increasing. The number of people 80 and older is expected, nationally, to increase by 233 percent by 2040 while the overall population increase will only go up by 33 percent over that same time period. The number of Seniors over 100 years old in the United States is expected to increase from 75,000 to 600,000 by 2050.

Healthy aging with economic security is going to become increasingly important. If we can remain physically and mentally fit with sufficient income these added years can be great. People of all ages in this country are increasingly aware of the need to eat healthy, exercise and enjoy healthy lifestyles. We all need to learn how best to make the most of the added years that we are likely to have.

As we look forward to a much larger population of healthy Seniors it is also certain that we will have a steady increase in the need for assisted living centers, senior housing, home care, health care, hospice care and more nursing homes. Equally important, healthy Seniors are likely to want to be productive and work later in life. Many are likely to want adjustments in their work hours. Business, government as well as families and individuals will have to learn how to best adapt to this steady change that we will have the opportunity to use to our advantage.

MAOA fully expects that people in Massachusetts and the rest of our nation will find the way to enjoy our longer lives. However, successfully adapting to this aging trend will require our best efforts and it is important remember that our efforts are not primarily for Seniors today but for future generations that are going to benefit most if we successfully shift to healthy aging with economic security. Please join us in our education and advocacy initiatives.

The Way I See It

BEWARE THE ENTITLEMENT TRAP

by James J. Callahan, Jr. Ph.D.

The 2009 Social Security Trustees Report shows that depletion of the OASDI trust fund will occur about four years earlier (2037) than predicted last year. This is accounted for by the high level of unemployment-unemployed workers do not pay payroll taxes nor do their non-employers, -lower interest in treasury securities, and "slightly lower estimates for real GDP after the economy recovers in 2015, and faster reductions in mortality rates." The Medicare trust is expected to be exhausted two years earlier (2017), and Medicaid is breaking the budgets of the states. Not surprisingly, this information has renewed the calls for "entitlement reform" especially from corporate interests, Republicans and collaborators in academia. Beware lumping each of these problems under the slogan "entitlement reform" which is a movement designed to divert our attention from the 3-4 trillion bailout to the banking system via TARP, TALF, and the Federal Reserve’s many open “windows.” Social security, Medicare and Medicaid must be analyzed separately and different solutions applied to each.

Health care reform is being addressed by the Obama administration with apparent cooperation of the corporate sector, the insurance companies, and health care providers. They are all cooperating because they need the money. Business, especially mid and small size, can no longer afford the health care premiums, the insurance companies are losing money on many of their investments, and health service utilization is falling as more people become poorer. Hospitals are being hit with a double whammy-lower utilization of lucrative elective surgery and investment losses. No wonder they are all lining up at the Federal money trough.

The Obama approach seems to be to enact universal coverage and then go after costs control-an approach like Massachusetts. I hope it works, but I have my doubts. First, it appears that any type of public plan is being strangled in its crib. Proponents of this idea are being characterized as naïve and unrealistic, if not complicit in sabotaging true reform. Without a public plan, there will be no way to provide competition for lower prices. Second, consumer interests are barely at the table and overwhelmed by special pleading corporations, insurance companies and providers. It falls on the shoulders of courageous politicians to truly represent the broader consumer interests. Older persons must fight to keep Medicare intact, unless a new plan actually improves it. It is dumb to give up a good thing for something less, even if it is sold under the false pretense of “we all need to sacrifice.”

Medicaid is a Federal/state matching funds program for low-income persons. Most of its expenses fall into one of two categories: medical care and long term care which is mostly for nursing homes. The demand by families and their children for medical care is increasing due to the recession. Medicaid coverage needs to be protected to prevent health problems down the road. I heard that a 10% unemployment rate translates into a 25% child poverty rate. The demand for long-term care is increasing although less so for nursing homes and more for at home services. Medicaid should be split. The medical care portion of Medicaid would be absorbed into a universal health plan, and the long-term care portion established as a separate program in its own right.

We are all familiar with critics of social security crying wolf about its unaffordability and the need for private accounts. The crash of Wall St. temporarily muted that language, but is coming back again now that the Trustees report shows an earlier date at which Social Security will exhaust its trust fund and be able to pay only 75% of promised benefits. There are many ways to fix this with slightly higher payroll taxes, and modestly changed benefits, but these ideas get buried in the enthusiasm for entitlement reform. Protect those benefits and COLA at all costs. Citizens will rely on them more in the future than they do now.

I am a firm believer in the validity and solvency of Social Security, but I am worried about the future, primarily because we will have years of slow growth as our standard of living declines. The Trustees report cites both slower growth and declining mortality for the earlier exhaustion of the OASDI trust fund. The Bureau of the Budget is using 2.6 % and the Social Security Administration 2.4% to estimate future GDP growth, but both of these may be optimistic.

According to a story on Bloomberg.com, "Americans may have to get used to using unemployment benefits for the first time since 1983 and an economy that won't grow much beyond 2 percent as a consequence of the lost confidence in consumer credit that shattered..."
Gov. Patrick Administers Oath to Ann L. Hartstein

Former MAOA Executive Director Ann L. Hartstein was recently "sworn in" as Secretary of Elder Affairs by Governor Deval Patrick at a celebration hosted by the Ralph J. Froio Senior Center in Pittsfield. Seniors, advocates and elder network staff from across Massachusetts attended the swearing-in ceremony.

Gov. Patrick commended Health and Human Services Sec. Judith Ann Bigby for her conduct of the Administration's Elder Affairs search and the selection of Hartstein, who he called "Exactly the right Secretary at this time to lead Elder Affairs."

Sec. Hartstein has over a 30 year commitment to making life better for Massachusetts older adults. She has led MAOA for the past five years and served as Assistant Secretary for Policy and Program Development between 1998 and 2004. The first Council on Aging Director to be appointed Secretary of EOA, she was Director of the Needham COA for eleven years. She has also worked in social day programs, Hospice, as a case manager at Boston Senior Home Care, and as a nursing home social worker.

Secretary Hartstein brings a knowledge of the daily concerns facing elders and their families, and the tremendous resources elders offer to Massachusetts to her job at Elder Affairs. She is known throughout the state as a strong advocate for seniors and for her ability to work with public agencies and private sector organizations to benefit elders and their families. (See Sec Hartstein Pittsfield speech page 5).

MAOA Welcomes Abby Schwartz

Abby Schwartz, an MSW/PhD student at the Boston College Graduate School of Social Work, has joined MAOA for the 2009-2010 academic year.

Abby holds bachelor's degrees in Psychology and Studio Art, from Muhlenberg College, and a Master degree in Gerontological Studies from Miami University of Ohio. Prior to attending Boston College, she was a Research Coordinator at Thomas Jefferson University's Center for Applied Research on Aging in Philadelphia. As coordinator she worked on various projects and fostered her interests in community-based services for caregivers of relatives with dementia, as well as community-based mental health services for minority elders.

Abby is excited to be part of the MAOA team and contribute to our mission to educate, advocate, and act on issues that keep elders healthy, economically secure, and engaged in life.

Join us in welcoming Abby to MAOA, she has already become a valuable member of our team.

MAOA Turns Forty!

Our membership includes elders and younger individuals who are interested in aging issues and social justice across generations.

Working for change and to keep elders in the mainstream of our Commonwealth's life, MAOA has waged campaigns at various times to eliminate ageism from our employment laws (eliminating mandatory retirement in MA); to increase low-income housing availability for elders (housing vouchers for elders when families were the only recipients); to provide affordable transportation options for elders to be able to participate in their community's activities (reduced fares for elder riders on public transportation and the development of "The Ride," the curb-to-curb public transportation system for people unable to use the standard public transportation); and worked to create an official voice for elders at the highest level of state government. Created after an extensive grassroots campaign and rallies attended by hundreds of seniors, the MA Executive Office of Elder Affairs became the first cabinet level agency focused on elder issues in the nation. Fuel assistance, home care, community based long term care, quality care for elders in long term care facilities, prescription drug coverage, health and mental health, employment opportunities, civic engagement and homelessness are all issues that have received and continue to receive our attention.

Protecting Medicare and Social Security from changes that would compromise their universality and our seemingly unending campaign for universal health care continues.

MAOA board member, Ruth Ann (Rickie) Moriarity is leading the 40th Anniversary Committee planning committee. Excitement is building among long-term friends as well as among recent participants in MAOA programs.

No doubt one highlight will be the screening of the documentary film on the work of Frank Manning, produced in 1993 by WGBH and UMASS Boston. The film tells the story of the emergence of the Senior Power movement born in Massachusetts.

The keynote speaker is Ann F. Lewis, president of NoLimits.org, an internet-based organization providing information and opportunities to discuss local, national and global challenges. Ms. Lewis is the daughter of Elsie Frank, MAOA's second president.

Government and private sector leaders are lending their support as members of the event Honorary Committee. The distinguished committee members include long-time MAOA friend the late, Senator Ted Kennedy and Senator John Kerry; Governor Deval Patrick; Massachusetts House Speaker, Robert DeLeo; Senate President, Theresa Murray and Boston Mayor Thomas Menino.

Another MAOA board member, Lillian Colavecchio will recognize attendees who have served as Secretary of the Massachusetts Executive Office of Elder Affairs. The span of their service will be a decade less than the life of MAOA. James J. Callahan Jr. became Secretary in 1978; Ann Hartstein started her tenure in July 2009.

Opportunities are available for purchase of luncheon tickets.

For additional information call MAOA at 617-426-0804.

Make your reservations now to join in the festivities on September 24.
Older Americans at Work Money Isn't the Only Motive

By Joan Cirillo, Executive Director, Operation A.B.L.E. of Greater Boston

Since the onset of the current recession we've all been hearing how rising unemployment has affected older workers. Yet while the media spotlight has focused largely on the difficulty older Americans are having finding work, it has also highlighted the important role that going to work every day can play in an older person's life. To be sure, for many - too many -- older Americas a job is an absolute must. But we are also reading about countless individuals going back to or continuing to work simply because it makes them feel good. Working gives them structure and a sense of purpose - not to mention needed income.

We see examples every day here at Operation A.B.L.E. in the older workers coming through our doors on their journey back into the workplace. And through perseverance and hard work many ultimately get there. It is both amazing and gratifying to see the difference in their lives as they return to work.

Staying Connected-Medicare and Medicaid Websites You Can Trust

Web sites are easily accessible and informative, but what sites are trustworthy? There are a number of on-line resources that are informative, but what sites are trustworthy? CMA can be considered a reliable resource.

Three Medicare/Medicaid websites were assessed using these criteria:

● Authority: Who is responsible for the information contained in the web site, and is this a reliable source?

● Accuracy: Is the information accurate, and can it be verified?

● Objectivity: Is the information relatively free of bias, or is there a clear political, social, economic, or commercial agenda underlying the message?

● Currency: Is the information still available and up to date?

(Adapted verbatim, p. 47-48)

Center for Medicare Advocacy, Inc. (CMA)
http://www.medicareadvocacy.org/default.htm

CMA is a "non-profit, non-partisan organization that provides education, advocacy, and legal assistance to help elders and people with disabilities obtain Medicare and necessary health care."

It is assumed that CMA website information is contributed to by staff (such as attorneys). While the information provided is current, some sections of the website express various opinions regarding topics of interest (e.g. CMA recommendations for real Medicare Reform).

As a well-regarded and active advocacy group CMA can be considered a reliable resource.

Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)
http://www.cms.hhs.gov/

This federal U.S. Department of Health and Human Services website provides comprehensive information about Medicare and Medicaid programs in addition to other resources (e.g. statistics, fact sheets).

As the federal entity that provides information about Medicare and Medicaid services, CMS is a reliable source for information that is bias free and current. Site visitors may experience some difficulty navigating the website. Although major headings are provided for sections of interest, the website is vast and may require additional searching.

Massachusetts Executive Office of Health and Human Services Virtual Gateway (MA EOHHS)
http://www.mass.gov/

The Massachusetts Gateway website provides information for various audiences (e.g. consumers, organizations, etc.) about programs and services available through MA EOHHS. Individuals can apply for services directly through the site as well (e.g. Food Stamps).

Information in this site is bias free and current. It functions as a resource database with reliable information coming directly from MA EOHHS. An advantage of the website is its categorization (consumer services, provider and government services, and government services) which simplifies search processes. To access the consumer section, click on "How can you use the virtual gateway?" link, then click the "Consumer Services" link.

Maoa to honor Robert M. Coard

ABCD President/CEO

active and successful members of the community. His impact has been felt in ways large and small, from the food pantries and city streets of Boston, to Beacon Hill and Capitol Hill and the White House. Bob's a dear friend, and he'll be deeply missed by ABCD, by the millions he's helped, and by all of us fortunate enough to work with him. There's no doubt he'll continue to contribute in countless ways, and I wish him all the very best in the years ahead."

Under Bob Coard's leadership, ABCD built a neighborhood network with hundreds of service sites and developed programs that serve more than 100,000 disadvantaged persons annually - from pregnant mothers, infants and toddlers to teenagers to senior citizens. Programs include Elder Services, Foster Grandparents, Head Start, Early Head Start, Fuel Assistance, Youth Programs, high schools for at-risk teens, Housing and Homelessness Prevention, LearningWorks Career Development, Asset Development and many more.

Renowned as an institution-builder, Coard founded Urban College of Boston to provide low-income Boston residents with access to higher education. He also founded the National Community Action Foundation (NCAF) to provide national legislative advocacy for the nation's 1,100 community action programs and "CAPLAW" to provide legal support to community action agencies.

MAOA thanks long time friend Bob Coard for his unwavering leadership, courage and commitment in providing pathways out of poverty and making the world a better place.

Resources To Help Evaluate Websites

Beck, S.E. (1997). The good, the bad & the ugly: Or, why it's a good idea to evaluate web sources. Retrieved from New Mexico State University Library Web site:
http://lib.mnmsu.edu/instruction/evalcrit.html

http://www.library.jhu.edu/researchhelp/general/evaluating/

Good Afternoon everyone, I am pleased to be back in Pittsfield. Working together we can make a difference in the lives of Massachusetts’ residents. I would like to thank Jean Beauchemin, Mayor Roberto, and all the wonderful people in western, Mass for hosting this event. I would also like to thank the Governor and Secretary Bigby for the opportunity to serve as Secretary of Elder Affairs.

I want to tell you about some of the people I have met through my work in elder services who have changed my life and helped shape my vision for a better world.

I want to thank the gentleman in the Cambridge Nursing Home, who I met in my first job out of college. He was a double amputee, a diabetic, and a veteran who really wanted to go back home. From the moment I met him, he told me, “I want to get out of here.” He had a home, had resources to hire help, had some nieces and nephews who were somewhat supportive, he worked for months to set up services at home. A chair lift was installed and the bathroom refitted (this was in the late 70’s when there were no real resources as we have now). Many staff in the nursing home thought this was ridiculous. I had to convince his doctors who would have him go back home. The day finally came for him to go home. I set up visiting nurse services, as well as other services for him. He was afraid but thrilled that he was getting this chance. He was home for three days when he called me and said, “I have done what I need to do, seen what I could and could not do, and now I want to come back.” Lots of staff said, “see, we told you so.” I said to them, “no see I told you so.” When this gentleman came back to the nursing home his whole attitude had changed. He had achieved what was thought impossible. He was content after that in the nursing home; he was no longer belligerent and wanting to get out. He became involved in the “community” life of the nursing facility and lived out his final year comfortably, knowing that he did what he needed to do. What others may have seen as a failure, I saw (and most especially) he saw as a dream fulfilled.

If this gentleman were alive today, he would be in his own home (and not just for three days). His life would be changed by the system we have in place to meet Long Term Care needs. Times have changed and many of us in the room have been a part of that change. When I was the COA director in Needham I learned a lot from the nursing services there. I want to thank all of the seniors in Needham who helped me understand volunteerism, helping one another, and giving to one another and the community.

I want to thank all of the brave people suffering from chronic and terminal illnesses who I had the pleasure of working with in my job as a social worker in a California home health agency and hospice program. Learning to bridge the language gap between nurses, social workers and the patients at that time taught me a lot about communicating across professions.

Many times I sat with family members and their dying relatives and said - no need to do anything, just be with them. I will never forget that sense of calm that was often created. Sometimes that is what we as professional need to do: just be. Listen and learn as well as help when we can.

I want to thank the people at HHS and the staff at Elder Affairs. I am thrilled to be working with such hardworking and dedicated people who will do anything within their capacity to make life better for all of us who are aging in the Commonwealth. (That's all of us, by the way).

Thanks to all of my colleagues and friends in agencies, organizations, and communities throughout the Commonwealth. Thank you for your support and your willingness to keep me on my toes with your commitment to the betterment of all people of the Commonwealth.

Finally, I want to say thank you to my spouse Cathy and my niece Elena who have come here today and put up with me everyday. I love you both.

I look forward to working as Secretary of Elder Affairs to envision a future where... all of us have the opportunity to live where we want to live with the supports that provide us with what we need. That includes the ability to socialize with friends and family, even if we need assistance. Together we can build this world. I thank you for this opportunity to play a part in making this happen. ♦

BEWARE THE ENTITLEMENT TRAP

financial markets.” Mohamed El-Erian, chief executive officer of Pacific Investment Management Co. was quoted as saying, “The financial system will be leveraged, de-globalized and re-regulated. There are insufficient demand buffers and fast-acting structural reforms to provide for a spontaneous and sustainable recovery in the global economy. It will be a major shock to those that are trapped by an overly dominant 'business-as-usual' mentality.” If Mr. El-Erian is correct, Social Security will be in big trouble and require more than modest reforms.

It is time to re-focus on the essential policy goal which was spelled out clearly in Franklin Roosevelt's social security program. That is: to provide economic security to each citizen in childhood, youth, middle age and old age. Don't talk "entitlements," don't talk "we must all sacrifice," don't talk about "bailouts." We must argue, and argue persuasively, that economic security is a fundamental right of U.S. citizens, and show the way to finance it.

Go to it. ♦
The Older American
Fall 2009

struggle to establish health care as a right for all Americans and this year his Health Care Committee was the first committee in Congress to pass comprehensive health reform legislation - The Affordable Health Choices Act. [See inset on page 7 for Timeline of Ted Kennedy's legislative history.]

MA Congressmen Jim McGovern's statement on Senator Kennedy's passing expresses the feelings of many. "No one can ever fill his shoes," McGovern said. "But we can, we must follow in his footsteps. The work goes on, and the cause endures."

We at MAOA, grieve his loss, celebrate his life and look forward to continuing our shared commitment to the dignity and vitally important contributions of older men and women in our state and nation.

continued from page 1

Edward M. Kennedy

Ted Kennedy, MAOA and Me

quick on your feet and ready to adapt to the issues of the moment.

My most memorable presentation with the Senator was an SOS (Save Our Security) rally that took place at the Arlington Street Church. David Stockman, Budget Director in the Regan Administration had proposed a cut to Social Security. Frank Manning responded to this absurd proposal by rallying the MAOA troops. The panel that day included Frank Manning, John Kenneth Galbraith, Senator Kennedy and myself. The Senator was running late and I was faced with a speaker's worst nightmare- Senator Kennedy arrived in the middle of my speech! How do you regain the audience when Ted Kennedy, the iconic Senator with the booming voice who is recognized and loved by all walks into the room? When the crowd settled down, I adapted my remarks to bring the crowd back to attention. As a collector of useless information, I remembered that David Stockman had burned his draft card on the altar of the Arlington Street Church several years earlier. I shared this information with the attendees and suggested that we do the same with Mr. Stockman Social Security Proposal. The crowd responded with roaring applause. When the program ended the Senator told me that I had done a great job. As I reflected on my experiences with Senator Kennedy this weekend, I realized this was the best compliment that I have ever received.

Dorothy M. Winn is a long time member of MAOA's Board of Directors

Ted Kennedy for Senate Rally

Sen. Kennedy with Frank Manning at 1970 MAOA Rally to Stop Social Security Cuts

MAOA Board of Directors member and Mass Councils on Aging leaders (at time of the photo), left to right, Dorothy Winn, Laurie Mehlinger, Janice, Weiss and Michael Taylor confer with Sen. Ted Kennedy at National Council on Aging Meeting

Ted Kennedy, MAOA and Me

continued from page 1

Ted Kennedy for Senate Rally
<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Year</th>
<th>Event</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1962</td>
<td>Edward M. Kennedy elected to the United States Senate;</td>
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<tr>
<td>1963</td>
<td>Senator Kennedy became a member of the Senate Health Committee and Judiciary Committee in the Senate.</td>
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<td>1964</td>
<td>Kennedy made his maiden speech to the Senate on the Civil Rights Act of 1964, which outlawed segregation in public accommodations; and he strongly supported the Economic Opportunity Act that established community action, training and employment programs and created Volunteers in Service to America (VISTA) which offered volunteer opportunities to Americans of all ages.</td>
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<td>1965</td>
<td>He was a vocal supporter of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 to end discrimination against minorities in voting.</td>
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<td>1966</td>
<td>Kennedy passed legislation creating the national community health center program joining a health center in Columbus Point in Dorchester, Massachusetts, with a center in Mound Bayou, Mississippi as the start of a national program that now includes more than 1200 health centers nationally serving more than 20 million low income patients.</td>
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<td>1969</td>
<td>Kennedy gave his first speech calling for national health insurance for all Americans.</td>
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<td>1970</td>
<td>He was a leader in enacting the Older Americans Community Service Employment Act and a fuel assistance program for low-income persons, now known as the Low Income Heating Energy Assistance Program or LIHEAP.</td>
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<td>1971</td>
<td>He became Chairman of the Senate Health Subcommittee and held a series of field hearings around the country on national health insurance; and was a leader in passing the National Cancer Act to expand research on all aspects of cancer.</td>
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<td>1972</td>
<td>Kennedy championed the Meals on Wheels Act, which offers nutritional meals to homebound senior citizens; and was a key supporter of Title IX of the Education Amendments of 1972, which protects women from discrimination in educational institutions.</td>
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<td>1974</td>
<td>Working with Wilbur Mills, Chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee, he introduced comprehensive legislation providing national health insurance.</td>
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<td>1978</td>
<td>He was principal sponsor of the Civil Rights Commission Act Amendments, which expanded the jurisdiction of the Commission to protect persons with disabilities from discrimination.</td>
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<td>1979</td>
<td>Kennedy became Chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee.</td>
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<td>1980</td>
<td>Kennedy campaigned for the Democratic nomination for President. He introduced the Civil Rights for Institutionalized Persons Act, which enforced the constitutional rights of persons in government institutions such as the elderly, the disabled, the mentally ill, and the incarcerated.</td>
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<td>1981</td>
<td>Kennedy led a successful effort to enact the major Children's Health Insurance Program.</td>
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<td>1988</td>
<td>Kennedy introduced the Fair Housing Act Amendments to extend the law to prohibit discrimination towards people with disabilities in the sale or rental of housing; and sponsored legislation that provided funds to all 50 states to raise awareness about the uses of assistive technology to improve the lives of people with disabilities.</td>
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<td>1990</td>
<td>On July 26, 1990, the Americans with Disabilities Act was enacted into law.</td>
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<td>1992</td>
<td>Kennedy helped pass the Mammography Quality Standards Act to guarantee the safety and accuracy of mammograms.</td>
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<td>1993</td>
<td>Kennedy sponsored the National and Community Service Trust Act, which created AmeriCorps and the Corporation for National and Community Service to expand opportunities for Americans to serve their communities.</td>
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<td>1994</td>
<td>Kennedy’s leadership brought about the passage of the landmark Family and Medical Leave Act and led a successful effort to reauthorize the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program to help families pay their heating bills.</td>
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<td>1996</td>
<td>Kennedy and Senate Majority Leader Nancy Kassebaum sponsored the Health Insurance Portability and Accountability Act, which guarantees the continuation of health insurance coverage for the millions of Americans who change jobs or lose their jobs.</td>
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<td>1997</td>
<td>With Senator Hatch, Kennedy led the successful effort to enact the major Children's Health Insurance Program.</td>
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<td>2000</td>
<td>Following the attacks of September 11th, 2001, Kennedy called together disaster relief and mental health organizations to plan a coordinated response to meet the mental health needs of families of victims of the tragedy. Kennedy introduced the bipartisan Biopreparedness Act to help the country prevent, prepare for, and respond to bioterrorism and other public health emergencies.</td>
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<td>2006</td>
<td>He was a lead sponsor of the Pension Protection Act, which strengthened the financial condition of pension plans, improved their transparency, and added new worker and taxpayer protections.</td>
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<td>2007</td>
<td>Congress passed legislation proposed by Kennedy to strengthen FDA’s regulatory authority over drugs after they are approved.</td>
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<td>2008</td>
<td>After more than 10 years of effort, Kennedy and Senator Domenici worked together to enact the Mental Health Parity Act, requiring insurance companies to provide benefits for mental illnesses equal to the benefits for physical illnesses.</td>
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<td>2009</td>
<td>Kennedy championed the health and employment provisions of the American Recovery and Reinvestment Act, which included incentives for the adoption of health information technology, provisions to expand access to unemployment insurance and to help those who lose their jobs to keep their health insurance. With Senator Hatch, he led the enactment of the Serve America Act, which expands service opportunities for Americans of every age. Kennedy’s Health Committee was also the first committee in Congress to pass comprehensive health reform legislation called for by President Obama—the Affordable Health Choices Act.</td>
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**SOURCE:** Sen. Edward M. Kennedy website
Join MAOA at our 40th Anniversary Gala Celebration Luncheon

Thursday, September 24, 2009, 9:00 AM - 2:00 PM

Boston Raddison Hotel, 200 Stuart St., Boston
Massachusetts Association of Older Americans, Inc

From 1969 to 2009
Years of Change, Years of Continuity, Years of Advocacy
Celebrate our past!
Learn about our current exciting initiatives

Join in our future!

For information call 617-426-0804

Help Us Make a Difference in the Lives of Seniors

MAOA, Massachusetts’ first statewide advocacy and education organization, was founded in 1969 by Frank Manning and a group of senior activists.

For over thirty-five years, MAOA has advocated for a better life for seniors, their families and future generations. We believe that information empowers seniors and that all of society benefits from seniors' ongoing involvement in the mainstream of life.

Please consider an additional contribution to make sure your voice continues to be heard.

Mail form and check to:
Massachusetts Association of Older Americans
19 Temple Place 4th Floor
Boston, MA 02111

M A O A
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Senior/Retiree - $15/year
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