



2008 AARP Voters' Guide

Iowa Senate District 18

How to use the AARP Voters' Guide:
Here's how this Voters' Guide works. AARP asked key questions about issues important to our members and their families of each major candidate for this race. Each candidate was allowed up to 125 words to answer each question. AARP did not edit or modify those answers. The candidates were asked to check the support or oppose circles. The candidates may have chosen not to check a circle.

AARP has provided a summary of our position for each of the issues.

- Pass this guide on to friends and family.
- Share your views with the candidates.
- Ask for clarification from any candidate whose answer seems unclear.

Be sure to vote on November 4.

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Q ■ *Would you support or oppose a Consumer Protection bill, creating a private cause of action against consumer fraud?*

AARP's Position:

Creating a private cause of action against consumer fraud

Support **Oppose**

Joe Childers (Republican)

Creating a private cause of action against consumer fraud

Support **Oppose**

Swati Dandekar (Democrat)

Creating a private cause of action against consumer fraud

Support **Oppose**

Iowa is the only state in the nation that does not grant individuals a private right of action against acts of consumer fraud. The only entity in Iowa that may file a case under the Consumer Fraud Act is Iowa's Attorney General Office. Receiving over 6000 consumer fraud complaints annually, they cannot and do not prosecute every case of consumer fraud in the State of Iowa.

AARP Iowa's top priority is creating a private cause of action against fraud. Individuals need to be able to pursue remedies, like damages and injunctions, and receive attorney fees so that attorneys will take their case. Iowa should join the rest of the nation and empower individual consumers to fight on their own against frauds perpetrated against them.

I would support consumer fraud as a private right of action, but only in cases that involved misrepresentation that was willful and known to the plaintiff. In addition, I would favor legislation that only awarded attorneys fees if the consumer receives actual damages, and protect consumers by limiting the availability of class action status to those cases that involve significant monetary damage. Finally, I would require that punitive damages be awarded only in cases where fraud was deliberate.

The candidate shoes not to respond by the deadline.

Q ■ *What specific steps would you take to ensure that residents in need of long-term care have access to a full range of services?*

AARP's Position:

Funding the unmet home and community based service needs

Support **Oppose**

Funding for a Single Point of Entry System through the Aging and Disability Resource Centers

Support **Oppose**

Joe Childers (Republican)

Funding the unmet home and community based service needs

Support **Oppose**

Funding for a Single Point of Entry System through the Aging and Disability resource Centers

Support **Oppose**

Swati Dandekar (Democrat)

Funding the unmet home and community based service needs

Support **Oppose**

Funding for a Single Point of Entry System through the Aging and Disability resources Center

Support **Oppose**

AARP believes that Iowa should prioritize providing long-term care in the setting of Iowans' choice, their homes, with just the help they need. The Senior Living Program documented an estimated \$2.8 million in "Unmet Needs" (FY 2007) for older Iowans' services like chore assistance, adult day services, and others services. With the natural disasters, that number will rise dramatically. Funding for Iowa's Aging and Disability Resource Center needs to continue to better connect older Iowans to local aging services in their area, a Single Point of Entry System.

AARP supports promoting the independence of seniors and delaying the use of institutional care by:

- Funding the Unmet Service Needs identified in Iowa's Senior Living Program.
- Funding the Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC).

I favor reducing or elimination institutional bias by providing the support seniors need to stay in their homes. In addition, I favor services that would assist seniors in meal preparation and provide needed social interaction.

The candidate shoes not to respond by the deadline.

Q: What specific steps would you take to ensure that all older Iowans, but especially those displaced by natural disaster, have access to affordable housing, and can age in place?

AARP's Position:

Efforts to integrate universal design concepts into home rebuilding and home modification

Support **Oppose**

State efforts to help local communities rebuild and develop affordable housing options

Support **Oppose**

About half of Iowans over 65 live in homes built before 1960. Universal Design home modifications are a way to make older homes convenient for Iowans as they age. With Iowa's 2008 natural disasters, home issues have taken on a whole new meaning. The state can play a role in helping Iowans rebuild or modify their home with universal design concepts to allow better and safer living, and avoid institutional care longer. AARP supports state efforts to encourage and integrate universal design concepts into home rebuilding efforts and home modifications.

Additionally, as Iowans have been displaced by the disasters, especially in low income housing areas, affordable housing is a critical issue. AARP supports state efforts to work with devastated local communities to help develop affordable housing options.

Joe Childers (Republican)

Efforts to integrate universal design concepts into home rebuilding and home modification

Support **Oppose**

State efforts to help local communities rebuild and develop affordable housing options

Support **Oppose**

Seniors should be given assistance in navigating the re-building process such as advisory services to help deal with contractors and negotiate competitive pricing. In addition seniors will need help identifying, locating, and touring affordable housing alternatives. Seniors may need short term rental assistance and transportation assistance while waiting on the rebuilding of their homes. Seniors that can't replace their former residence should have assistance in finding new affordable housing that will allow them to maintain their independence.

Swati Dandekar (Democrat)

Efforts to integrate universal design concepts into home rebuilding and home modification

Support **Oppose**

State efforts to help local communities rebuild and develop affordable housing options

Support **Oppose**

The candidate shoes not to respond by the deadline.

Q ■ *What steps would you take at the state level to improve health care quality and make coverage affordable and accessible to more Iowans?*

AARP's Position:

Open existing programs to the uninsured

Support **Oppose**

Subsidizing Private health coverage

Support **Oppose**

Adopting national standards for health care quality reporting

Support **Oppose**

HF 2539 established a pilot project for pre-Medicare adults (age 50-65) to provide coverage by direct care workers and eliminated pre-existing conditions roadblocks as people move between plans. AARP Iowa supports measures to achieve access to affordable health care coverage for all individuals, including pre-Medicare adults.

HF 2539 also began a health care transparency initiative, access to information related to health care quality and price. The next step is for Iowa's providers to report national standard quality indicators so that Iowans can compare indicators between states.

Joe Childers (Republican)

Opening existing programs to the uninsured

Support **Oppose**

Subsidizing private health coverage

Support **Oppose**

Adopting national standards for health care quality reporting

Support **Oppose**

We need to take steps to make insurance more accessible, transparent, portable, and affordable for all Iowans.

Swati Dandekar (Democrat)

Opening existing programs to include the uninsured

Support **Oppose**

Subsidizing private health care coverage

Support **Oppose**

Adopting national standards for health care quality reporting

Support **Oppose**

The candidate shoes not to respond by the deadline.