



Arizona Grandparent Ambassadors

AZGA 2018 Day at the AZ Capitol

Kinship Caregivers Advocated at the Arizona State Capitol



On February 20th, grandparents and kinship caregivers convened for our annual AZGA Day at the AZ State Capitol. Guest speakers included: Director of the Governor's Office of Youth, Faith and Family, Maria Fuentes, Senator David Bradley and Representative Todd Clodfelter. Participants had an opportunity to network, learn about pertinent

legislation being proposed this session and meet with their representatives in the House and Senate. Attendees were also introduced in the Senate Gallery by Senator Kate Brophy McGee and in the House of Representatives by Representative TJ Shope. Lunch was sponsored by AARP Arizona.

One of the bills that the group discussed with legislators was signed by the Governor on April 10th! SB1166 (permanent guardianship; subsidy) permits permanent guardians to apply for adoption and continue receiving the permanent guardianship subsidy rate. Another important bill is almost at the finish line. HB2482 (foster care tuition waiver) continues the Tuition Waiver Program for Foster Youth at state universities and community colleges for youth who qualify. The bill passed out of the House and will soon be receiving a final vote in the Senate.

We appreciate all of the grandparents and kinship caregivers who joined us, the legislators who took the time to meet with our group and AARP's sponsorship of lunch. We hope you can join us again next year!



Arizona Grandparent Ambassadors (AZGA)

is a statewide coalition of aunts, uncles, fictive kin and grandparents who stepped up to care for children who for a variety of reasons could no longer remain in their own home. We are the reason children are not in foster care, group homes, or other non-familial settings.

Our mission is to support, mobilize, educate, and advocate for better laws and policies to help us care for and raise strong, resilient children.

Federal Legislation

Recently, the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2018 was signed into law. The legislation includes \$20 million for kinship navigator programs, an additional \$30 million for the National Family Caregiver Support Program, and \$37 million in additional funds for the Adoption and Guardianship incentives Program. We will be following how these funds will be used in Arizona.

AZGA REGIONAL MEETINGS

Tucson—If you are interested in attending an AZGA meeting in Tucson, please contact Ann Nichols at annwnichols@gmail.com for more information.

Phoenix—If you are interested in attending an AZGA meeting in the Phoenix metro area, please email info@azga.org to find out when the next meeting is.

**More Information About Arizona Grandparent Ambassadors:
Contact AZGA State Chair Ann Nichols at (520) 312-8067 or annwnichols@gmail.com**

