

# Protecting Older Iowans Rights

With the intent of protecting Iowans' rights, the House Human Resources Committee passed legislation to establish the Office of Long-Term Care Resident's Advocate.

The state long-term care resident advocate, along with the local long-term care resident advocates, will investigate and help resolve complaints regarding administrative actions and the health, safety, welfare, and rights of residents. The new office would oversee residents and tenants of long-term care facilities, assisted living programs, and elder group homes.

If an advocate suspects abuse, neglect, or exploitation of a resident or tenant, the advocate is required to contact the proper state agency, including the local authorities, to investigate the matter.

In addition, the office will make recommendations annually to the Governor and the Legislature for improving the health, safety, welfare, and rights of residents and tenants of long-term care facilities, assisted living programs, and elder group homes. The office will be overseen by the Iowa Department on Aging.

House File 2328, which unanimously passed out of committee, is now ready for consideration by the Iowa House.