



NEWS RELEASE

For Immediate Release

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A private member's bill calling on the Ontario Government to appoint a Senior's Advocate is currently before the Ontario Legislature.

Seniors for Social Action Ontario (SSAO) strongly support Bill 196, which would create a Senior's Advocate Office. Such an office would advocate for the interests of elders and their families. They would also advise the government and identify systemic policies and practices that are challenging for seniors.

Researcher and author John Lord, speaking for SSAO, says, "Senior's issues are under scrutiny across the province because of how poorly the government has handled the crisis in long-term care. Significant changes are needed, and a Senior's Advocate Office would be an important part of the changes we need." Lord points out that British Columbia has had a Senior's Advocate since 2014, and "this has been an important development to address senior's issues."

Commenting further, SSAO researcher and policy advisor Dr. Patricia Spindel points out that "Advocacy is needed within and outside government to address serious systemic issues in the long-term care system. A Senior's Advocate would provide an important vehicle for senior's issues, especially if it is independent and reports to the Ontario legislature."

The proposed legislation enables the Senior's Advocate to form an Advisory Council. SSAO believe this will be an important way for Senior's to have a voice within the proposed advocacy office.

To view Bill 196:

<https://www.ola.org/en/legislative-business/bills/parliament-42/session-1/bill-196>