

ALABAMA SECURITIES COMMISSION

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Community Education Program for Seniors Held in Robertsdale, Alabama Special Guest U.S. Rep. Bradley Byrnes Attends and Addresses Key Issues

MONTGOMERY, ALABAMA (August 24, 2017) U.S. Rep. Bradley Byrne, together with officials from the Alabama Securities Commission (ASC), the Alabama Department of Senior Services (ADSS), South Alabama Regional Planning Commission (SARPC) and the City of Robertsdale, hosted a Community Education Program for Seniors on August 23, 2017 at PZK Hall in Robertsdale. More than 70 seniors from the Greater Baldwin County area heard comments and presentations addressing issues of importance to their long-term social, medical and financial well-being.

Julie McGee, Director of SARPC's Area Agency on Aging, welcomed attendees, speakers and vendors and introduced long-time Robertsdale Mayor, Charles Murphy. After welcoming comments, Mayor Murphy introduced the day's special guest, Rep. Bradley Byrne who spoke about the challenges facing Alabama's seniors and the role federal, state and local lawmakers play in helping seniors. Rep. Byrne shared his unique understanding of critical issues affecting seniors, having been a lifelong resident of South Alabama, where he has been continually involved in local community initiatives through his service as a past member of the Alabama State Senate, Alabama State Board of Education, and Chancellor of Alabama's community college system. In 2013, Congressman Byrne was elected to the U.S. House of representatives where he established himself as an effective legislator by successfully advocating for local interests and promoting a smaller, less intrusive federal government role.

Emily Marsal, General Counsel of ADSS, spoke on the various programs that the Alabama Department of Senior Services offered and highlighted some of the statistics which indicate a better quality of life for Seniors who are being served by these programs. She also spoke about the work of the Interagency Council for the Prevention of Elder Abuse and the recent efforts in the past session to pass the Elder Abuse Protection Order and Enforcement Act. That act was signed into law by Governor Kay Ivey and became effective August 1, 2017. "We already have very strong laws to protect our seniors from elder abuse and this recent law creates a method for elder abuse victims to obtain a protective order against their abuser. We are proud to continue the fight to protect seniors from abuse and exploitation," she said.

Joseph Borg, Director of ASC, spoke about the role that the Alabama Securities Commission plays in helping protect the long-term financial well-being of Alabama's seniors. Speaking about "How to Protect Yourself from Financial Fraud," Borg described the many dangers that seniors face from a multitude of illicit schemes and fraudulent sales pitches targeting their retirement savings and investments. As an example of the dangers senior investors face from unsuitable or illegal financial offers, Borg showed attendees clips from national news programs, featuring ASC's investigation and prosecution of an actual fraudulent scam perpetrated in a large Alabama church. Borg also highlighted recently passed state laws designed to protect vulnerable adults from

financial exploitation. "We are grateful to be able to participate with our local, regional, state and federal partners to inform and educate our state's seniors about the many opportunities available to them for support and protection as they enjoy their retirement years," Borg said. "Our special thanks goes to Representative Byrne for his participation in this informative event, and for his continued legislative efforts in support of our state and nation's senior investors."

For further information contact Dan Lord, Education and Public Affairs Manager, 334-353-4858.

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