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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

January 22, 2018

**More than 1,500 Older Floridians to Celebrate at 18<sup>th</sup> Annual Florida Senior Day**  
*~ Florida elders to have their voices heard at State Capitol; State Agency Leadership to participate in Town Hall with seniors~*

**TALLAHASSEE** – On Wednesday, January 24, the Florida Department of Elder Affairs (DOEA) and United Way of Florida will host Florida Senior Day, an annual event that will bring more than 1,500 elders and advocates from across the state to Tallahassee to honor the many contributions of Florida seniors.

“We are proud to partner with United Way again to host Florida Senior Day, and we invite you to join us as we celebrate the 5.3 million seniors that are a treasure to our state,” said Florida Department of Elder Affairs Secretary Jeff Bragg. “We have a day of entertainment, awareness, and advocacy planned, and we are thankful for such great partners who will be on-site to share resources and information for all of our guests.”

A Town Hall meeting will take place at Tallahassee City Hall at 10:00 a.m., where Secretary Bragg will lead a panel of advocates and policy experts in discussing important aging topics like preparing for the booming elder population and protecting seniors from abuse, neglect, and exploitation. Seniors will also participate as they pose questions to the panel.

**Panel participants in the Town Hall include DOEA Secretary Jeff Bragg; Florida Department of Children and Families Secretary Mike Carroll; Mike Milliken, State Ombudsman for the Florida Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program (LTCOP); Carol Berkowitz, Executive Director of the Office of Public and Professional Guardians (OPPG); and Jaime Estremera-Fitzgerald, Vice President of The Florida Association of Area Agencies on Aging (F4A) and CEO of the Area Agency on Aging for Palm Beach/Treasure Coast, Inc. The Town Hall will be moderated by Anna Johnson, veteran WCTV anchor.**

The rest of the Florida Senior Day activities will take place in the Capitol Courtyard and will include performances by senior entertainment and performing groups from as far away as Miami, 70 interactive partner booths with free resources and giveaways for attendees, complimentary health screenings, and a free Chick-fil-A lunch.

DOEA Chief Financial Officer and Deputy Chief of Staff, Jon Manalo, will join Ted Granger, President of United Way of Florida, to address attendees during a mid-day program on the back steps of the Old Capitol.

Please visit [www.FloridaSeniorDay.org](http://www.FloridaSeniorDay.org) for the complete schedule of events and for more information about Florida Senior Day.

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*The Department of Elder Affairs, the State Unit on Aging, helps Florida's elders to remain healthy, safe, and independent. For more information, please visit [elderaffairs.org](http://elderaffairs.org)*