



## PRESS RELEASE

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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**\*\*\*MEDIA ADVISORY\*\*\***

### Dept on Aging kicks off a series of public hearings December 5 on expanding long term care ombudsman service

**SPRINGFIELD – December 4, 2013.** The Illinois Department on Aging (IDoA) will host a series of public hearings to receive input from stakeholders on the expansion of the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program. The Long Term Care Ombudsman Program provides advocacy services for residents of long term care facilities. The decision to expand the Ombudsman Program to home care and managed care settings ensures that long term care consumers have a voice regardless of the means of care.

The first of the public hearings, called stakeholder engagement meetings, is Thursday, December 5, at the Mt. Vernon Convention and Visitors Bureau in Mt. Vernon. Preregistration is required to provide oral testimony. Send an email to [Aging.ltcop@illinois.gov](mailto:Aging.ltcop@illinois.gov). Put "HCO and MCO comments" in the subject line.

Those unable to attend a stakeholder engagement meeting and wish to provide comments may submit written comments to the Office of State Long Term Care Ombudsman at [Aging.ltcop@illinois.gov](mailto:Aging.ltcop@illinois.gov). Put "HCO and MCO comments" in the subject line. The deadline to submit written testimony is January 16, 2014.

**WHO:** Illinois Department on Aging  
Stakeholders in the field of aging and long term care

**WHAT: Stakeholder Engagement Meeting: Expansion of the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program**

**WHEN:** Thursday, December 5, 2013  
9:30 a.m. until 11:30 a.m.

**WHERE:** Mt. Vernon Convention and Visitors Bureau  
200 Potomac Blvd.  
Mt. Vernon, Illinois 62864

The final report of the oral and written comments generated will be prepared by the Office of the State Long Term Care Ombudsman, distributed statewide and posted on the IDoA web page.

*Additional stakeholder engagement meetings will be held, as follows:*

- *December 17, 2013, at the Area Agency on Aging for Lincolnland in Springfield*
- *December 18, 2013, at the Fairview Heights Library in Fairview Heights*
- *January 7, 2014, at AgeOptions in Oak Park*
- *January 8, 2014, at the City of Chicago Central West Regional Center*
- *January 10, 2014, at the DuPage County Community and Senior Services in Wheaton*
- *January 15, 2014, at the Champaign Public Library*

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