

# Legislative Alert

## In this issue:

*GWAAR urges legislators to use caution in their consideration of AB 143 and SB 106 relating to Transportation Network Companies (TNCs).*

*April 9, 2015*

Aging advocates are concerned about two bills recently introduced regarding Transportation Network Companies (TNCs), [AB 143](#) and [SB 106](#) and their potential impact on older adults and current transportation networks throughout the state. Transportation Network Companies (TNCs) like Uber and Lyft are companies that use online-enabled platforms or cell-phone apps to connect passengers with drivers using their personal, non-commercial vehicles.

Transportation is a critical service and among the most requested for older adults in Wisconsin. A strong transportation network includes both public and private providers working in partnership to ensure service is provided and a comprehensive system is maintained. A strong transportation network is essential as the need for transportation exceeds the providers available, especially for wheelchair accessible service. The possibility of a new transportation option is not unwelcome; however, significant concerns have been raised about the way Transportation Network Companies are currently operating in Wisconsin and other states and the proposed state-wide regulation of these companies.

Our concerns include:

- the absence of a requirement and subsequent enforcement that the app and service must be accessible to people with disabilities, including those using wheelchairs,
- the potential for discrimination that is expressly prohibited by current taxi regulations,
- safety of and protections for consumers and other community citizens related to background checks, driving training, and liability limits,
- consequences for drivers who may not realize the impact driving for TNCs has to their personal insurance policy and their personal liability risks,
- the absence of local control in regulating these companies, and
- the speed at which these bills are moving.

The attached fact sheets by the Taxicab, Limousine & Paratransit Association highlight how TNCs endanger community transportation programs and availability of wheelchair transportation in particular, do not include individuals with disabilities, and lack consumer protections that could leave WI residents at risk.

We ask you to use caution when proceeding and encourage you to review the FAQs and other information at [Who'sDrivingYou.org](#) and directly at a TNC site such as [Uber](#) and learn how Wisconsin residents and businesses may be affected by TNCs and this proposed legislation.

Carrie Porter – Transportation Specialist  
[Carrie.porter@gwaar.org](mailto:Carrie.porter@gwaar.org)  
608-228-8092



### Madison Office:

1414 MacArthur Road, Suite A  
Madison, WI 53714  
ph. 608.243.5670  
fax. 866.813.0974

[gwaar.org](http://gwaar.org)

### Brookfield Office:

125 N Executive Dr, Suite 207  
Brookfield, WI 53005

### Green Bay Office:

2900 Curry Lane, Suite 414  
Green Bay, WI 54311

### Tribal Technical Assistance Center:

GLITC, Inc.  
P.O. Box 9  
Lac du Flambeau, WI 54538  
ph. 800.472.7207  
fax. 715.588.7900