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AARP, Aging Groups Endorse Gay Seniors Report

For the first time, mainstream aging groups including the AARP have endorsed a report by SAGE about the needs of gay seniors.

By Julie Bolcer



Aging groups including the AARP and the American Society on Aging have endorsed a report on the challenges facing gay seniors prepared by Services and Advocacy for Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual and Transgender Elders (SAGE), to be released Wednesday afternoon.

According to the **Chicago Tribune**, the report marks the first time the major American aging organizations are supporting an examination into the needs of LGBT older adults, estimated to be as high as 3 million.

"The report, to be released in Chicago at a national meeting on aging, highlights three key areas where LGBT seniors face challenges: financial security, health care and social supports," reports the *Tribune*. "It calls on federal and state lawmakers to consider ways to legally recognize same-sex relationships so aging partners in a committed relationship can have access to the same supports that benefit heterosexual seniors. That would include the right to Social Security survivor benefits and the rights of same-sex partners to make medical decisions for each other."



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