

AARP North Carolina Legislative Agenda 2009-2010

In-Home and Community Services

- > **Appropriate \$7 million in recurring funding for the Home and Community Care Block Grant to address the waiting list for in-home and community-based services for older adults**
- > **Increase funding for Project C.A.R.E. (Caregiver Alternative to Running on Empty) to provide respite care and support to caregivers of persons with Alzheimer's**
- > **Approve a State Long-Term Care Partnership Program and appropriate funding to the Seniors' Health Insurance Information Program in the NC Department of Insurance to educate the public about long-term care insurance)**
- > **Support adult day health services as a reimbursable service through the Medicaid State Plan**
- > **Study funding community programs for older and disabled adults with savings resulting from the Medicaid Community Care**
- > **Eliminate the waiting list for the Community Alternatives Program for Disabled Adults (CAP/DA)**
- > **Increase the Medicaid Medically Needy Income Standard (currently \$242 per month) and the reserve limit (currently \$2,000 for an individual and \$3,000 for a couple) for aged, blind and disabled adults**

Health Care Accessibility and Affordability

- > **Preserve Medicaid eligibility and services for older and disabled adults**
- > **Ensure that the state has a viable prescription drug wrap-around benefit for low-income Medicare eligible individuals and support funding to continue the CheckMeds NC medication review/management program**
- > **Reduce the number of uninsured individuals in the state and ensure that all North Carolinians have access to affordable health care**
- > **Expand dental care services for older and disabled adults, including special populations (e.g., nursing home and adult care home residents, persons with dementia)**

Long-Term Care Quality and Safety

- > **Ensure the appropriate placement of individuals with mental illness in long-term care facilities**
- > **Provide adequate funding for Special Care Units for persons with mental health disabilities**
- > **Continue funding for NC NOVA, a voluntary licensure program that focuses on recruitment and retention of direct care workers**
- > **Increase the personal needs allowance for long-term care residents who receive State/County Special Assistance and Medicaid**
- > **Expand the Adult Care Home Quality Improvement Consultation Program**
- > **Create a reward system for adult care homes that achieve high ratings**

Families and Vulnerable Older and Disabled Adults

- > **Establish a family caregiver tax credit for expenses incurred in caring for an older or disabled family member at home**
- > **Reduce the property tax burden on limited income older and disabled adults**
- > **Provide employees with a minimum number of paid annual sick days to care for themselves or a family member**
- > **Enact and fund proposed changes to the adult protective services statutes as recommended by the State Adult Protective Services Task Force**
- > **Update guardianship laws and provide funding for public guardianship services**
- > **Strengthen efforts to expand support for grandparents and other relatives raising minor children**
- > **Study the option for grandparents to petition courts for visitation with grandchildren in cases of divorce, separation of parents, parental incapacity, long-term incarceration, or death of one or both parents**
- > **Pass a resolution asking Congress to end the 24-month wait for Medicare by disabled persons**
- > **Support funding for undergraduate and graduate social work students to specialize in aging**
- > **Strengthen consumer protections in areas such as identify theft and marketing of products and services to older and disabled adults**
- > **Study authorizing a tax credit for individuals who own their home and need home modifications because of a physical disability**

Stronger Communities and Citizen Engagement

- > **Support transportation options and choices that enable communities to be senior friendly and that are financed in a fair and sustainable way**
- > **Provide a \$50 million recurring appropriation for the Housing Trust Fund**
- > **Appropriate \$750,000 in recurring funding for certified senior centers**
- > **Strengthen state and local preparedness for an increasing aging population**
- > **Expand health promotion and disease prevention programs, including making public places and worksites smoke-free**
- > **Make the campaign public financing program permanent for the Council of State and expand this to other offices**
- > **Create a legislative pilot public financing program and authorize municipalities to create local public financing programs**
- > **Televising state government meetings**
- > **Strengthen voter registration efforts**
- > **Ensure that state energy efficiency policies are affordable and fair**



AARP North Carolina represents 1.2 million North Carolinians whose ages span more than 50 years. The association's members include workers and retirees, individuals in their 50s at the peak of their earning years and those over 80 living alone, people with comfortable standards of living and those struggling with minimal resources.

Developing public policy recommendations that serve the interests of a group as diverse as older Americans is a formidable task. And of course, older Americans have many of the same concerns as younger members of our society—particularly about jobs, transportation and health care. Indeed the breadth and complexity of these issues are evident in the length of our legislative agenda. In 2009-2010, AARP will focus on issues that affect economic security, health and long-term care, support for families, utilities, livable communities, and mobility options.

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