



## STATE OF WASHINGTON WASHINGTON STATE COUNCIL ON AGING

### 2017 State Legislative Priorities

*The aging demographic is rapidly growing and smart investments today can preserve programs that have immense value. For those receiving care, the family members providing services to those in need, and for Washington's economy, our system of focusing on caring for older adults in their home makes this State a model of how to best treat older adults while conserving precious State resources.*

*Additionally, the Senior Citizen's Services Act needs to be expanded, and we **must** plan for the future of our state – a future where older people live more productive lives with a modest amount of help. **The Washington State Council on Aging advises the following:***

- State Issues
  - Support increase in AAA Case Management staff to decrease client case ratios, and better manage increasingly complex clients
  - Support passage of legislation increasing penalties for abuse and financial exploitation of vulnerable adults
  - Support implementation of the Medicaid 1115 Waiver (*Medicaid Alternative Care for unpaid family caregivers and Tailored Supports for Older Adults*)
  - Support restoration of adequate funding to keep the Long Term Care Ombudsman program operating
  - Monitor and support activities of the Joint Legislative Executive Committee on Aging and Disability Issues and advocate for the continuation of the JLEC beyond its current mandate
  - Support the expansion of the Health Homes Initiative and for adequate rates to ensure continued success
  - Support improvements in the State's guardianship programs
    - Work to support keeping family members engaged with, and aware of the status of incapacitated persons
    - Support broadening the decision-making services offered by the Office of Public Guardianship to allow the Office to provide a more comprehensive range of assistance, such as agents for power of attorney, representative payees, and trustees
    - Support adequate funding for the Office of Public Guardianship and to expand its services State-wide
  - Support reinstatement of Medicaid coverage for adult hearing and vision hardware/services
  - As homelessness solutions are sought, advocate for the needs of Seniors and those with special needs
  - As the State's comprehensive transportation plan is implemented, advocate for adequate transportation options for Seniors, and in particular those that live outside the scope of existing transportation networks
  - Support continued development of the State's Dementia Action Collaborative
    - As 2016 recommendations are translated into actions, support those recommendations and implementation steps (with Council agreement)



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**2017 National Legislative Priorities**

*The aging demographic is rapidly growing and smart investments today can preserve programs that have immense value. For those receiving care, the family members providing services to those in need, and for Washington's economy, our system of focusing on caring for older adults in their home makes this State a model of how to best treat older adults while conserving precious State resources.*

*Nothing will better serve the needs of our rapidly growing senior population than investing in the fundamental services provided to those most in need – the Older Americans Act needs to be funded adequately.*

- National Issues (Individually, each member is tasked with contacting their members of Congress)
  - Advocate for increasing funding for the Older Americans Act
  - Advocate for “Improving Access to Medicare Coverage Act of 2015”, HR1571/S843
  - As homelessness solutions are sought, advocate for the needs of seniors and those with special needs