



**STATE OF WASHINGTON**  
**WASHINGTON STATE COUNCIL ON AGING**  
*PO Box 45600 · Olympia, WA 98504-5600*

May 1, 2015

Honorable Andy Hill  
Chair Senate Ways & Means Committee  
303 John A. Cherberg Building  
PO Box 40445 Olympia, WA 98504

Honorable Ross Hunter  
Chair House Appropriations Committee  
315 John L. O'Brien Building  
PO Box 40600 Olympia, WA 98504

Dear Senator Hill & Representative Hunter,

On April 28 the members of the Washington State Council on Aging (Council), an advisory council to Governor Inslee and other key leaders in our State government, directed me to send you the following. With critical budget negotiations currently underway, the Council offers the following advice for your consideration in four areas that it deems important:

1. The Case Management funds increase of \$10.8 million dollars outlined in each chamber's draft budget are critical to the continued healthy operation of the Medicaid services provided in our State. The Council requests and advocates for the maintenance of *at least* this funding level in the final budget.
2. The work of the Joint Legislative and Executive Committee on Aging and Disability (JLEC) in the immediate previous biennium was noteworthy, and the Council is very interested in seeing this work continue in the next biennium. The Council requests and advocates for the continuation of the JLEC and for the funds necessary to see its work completed. Further the Council requests that the statement of objectives for the JLEC to complete for the coming biennium be reviewed to eliminate redundancy from the past biennium's work completed.

3. A key recommendation of the JLEC in the prior biennium was to undertake a comprehensive actuarial study of the costs and implications of Long Term Care and Services needed for older Washingtonians. The Council requests and advocates for sufficient funds in the final budget to complete such a study.
4. The Council urges you to include funding for the Health Homes initiative now available in 37 counties. Health Homes currently serve over 5,500 consumers who are most vulnerable for poor health outcomes and high cost utilization.

The Health Home program offers great promise in providing better care for people through more effective care coordination of health care services and long-term services and supports. A result of that better coordination will be a reduction in health care expenditures.

The program is on the verge of real improvement in patient care and controlling costs for very expensive program participants. The Council requests and advocates for including funding for Health Homes in your final budget agreement.

Sincerely,



Barry Lamont, Chairperson  
Washington State Council on Aging

Cc: Senator Mark Schoesler  
Senator John Braun  
Senator Sharon Nelson  
Senator Andy Billig  
Senator Kevin Ranker  
Senator Jim Hargrove  
Representative Frank Chopp  
Representative Patrick Sullivan  
Representative Dan Kristiansen  
Representative Paul Harris  
Representative Bruce Chandler  
Jason McGill, GOV  
Kevin Quigley, DSHS  
Washington State Council on Aging Members