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Supporting Caregivers and Care Recipients:
Current Key Legislative and Policy Issues

Caregiver Statistics

Caregivers in America Profile

Family Caregivers in NC

1.28 Million

Provide 80% of care for those
who need ADL help

Key Issues

Service Delivery Challenges

Workforce/Financial Security Concerns

Home and Community Care Block Grant (HCCBG)

- Primary non-Medicaid funding source for 60+
 - 11,000 on waiting list for services
 - NC House proposing \$4.47 million increase
- NC Senate only proposing \$969,549 NR continuing

Adult Day Services

Important option in continuum

Stagnant funding

Capitated Daily Rate - \$33 and \$40

Decrease in number –
120 to less than 100

1 Question NC DAAS Reports Caregivers Ask

Are there programs to pay me to stay home to care for my relative?

Reducing Hours or Giving Up Employment Could Have Major Implications for Future Financial Security of the Caregiver:

Lost Health Insurance

Reduced Pension

Reduced Quarters Paid into Social Security

60% of Caregivers Work

60% Make Workforce
Accommodations

10% Give Up Work Entirely

Options for “Paying” Caregivers To Provide Services Are Limited

CAP-DA, HCCBG, VA, etc. programs

Should we do more?

Health Insurance Coverage Gap

Caregivers May Lack Health Insurance

-- HB 655 – NC Health Care for Working Families

-- HB 5/SB 3 – Close Health Insurance Coverage Gap

An Estimated 500,000 Could be Covered

Family and Medical Leave

Numerous State Bill Introduced – All Failed to Move

- HB 422/SB 234 – Healthy Families and Workplaces/Paid Sick Days
- HB 423/SB 223 – Caregiver Relief Act
- HB 696 – NC Families First Act
- HB 899 – Enact KinCare Act

Federal Bills Introduced

- HR 947 – Family and Medical Insurance (FAMILY) Act
(2017- 2018)
- S 463 – Family Act

Tax Credit for Caregiving

Bills introduced in state legislature in previous years to provide credit

Federal HR 2505 – Credit for Caring Act
(2017-2018)

Social Security Credit

Federal S 1255 – Social Security
Caregiver Credit Act (2017-2018)

Other Relevant State Bills

- HB 915 – Establish Task Force on Aging
- HB 269/SB 161 – Enact NC Caregiver Act
- HB 619/SB 337 – Rethink Guardianship
- HB 818 – Allow Curbside Voting for Caregivers
- HB 185/SB 143 – The SAVE Act

Positive Developments

Congress passed “Recognize, Assist, Include, Support, and Engage (RAISE) Family Caregivers Act in 2018 – national strategy to recognize and support family caregivers

NC State Aging Service Plan for 2019-2023 available July 1 – section on strengthening caregiver support

NC CARE360 being implemented

Other Issues

Caregivers doing tasks not trained to do
(42% perform medical/nursing tasks
without any training)

Families have challenges in finding aids and
other personnel to assist. Should options
like the Companion Registry which
Resources for Seniors in Wake County
maintains be explored?

Learn from Other States

Establish Caregiver Task Force or Some Other Type of “Sanctioned” Entity to Address Supporting Caregivers (ex. New Jersey Assembly Bill 3514 established state Task Force)

Examine Successful Best Practices (ex. New York passed paid family leave policy into law in 2016)

Look at the Revenue Streams That Support Services (ex. Tobacco settlement and lottery funds are used in some states)

Resources

National Alliance for Caregiving:

<https://www.caregiving.org/>

Family Caregiving Alliance:

<https://www.caregiver.org/>

AARP Public Policy Institute Family Caregiving
Reports:

<https://www.aarp.org/ppi/issues/caregiving/>