

2023 CO-AGE LEGISLATIVE AND BUDGET PRIORITIES



The Issues

More Funding is needed for HCBS

Non-Medicaid Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) provide support for older Georgians to remain at home as long as possible. These services cost a fraction of the cost of a nursing home bed and can help seniors stay independent longer, however many remain on waiting lists for these services.



Medicaid is not Allowed in Assisted Living Communities

While Assisted Living Communities (ALCs) and large Personal Care Homes (PCHs) provide alternatives to nursing homes, many Georgians cannot afford private pay assisted living communities or large personal care homes.

Teledentistry Is Not Covered Under Telehealth

Because Georgia currently has no explicit legislation for Teledentistry, this creates a negative impact on achieving health equity for people who live in long-term care settings and rural areas that have little to no access to oral care.



Limited Access to Employer Provided Retirement

Many Georgians, including working caregivers, do not have access to an employer provided retirement program.

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The Proposed Fixes

\$10 Million in Funding for HCBS

Increasing funding by \$10 million for HCBS would cut the waiting lists, keep more older adults in their homes longer, maintain service provider jobs in local communities, and leverage public-private partnerships to meet the needs of an expanding older population.



Allow Medicaid in Assisted Living Communities

A change in legislation would allow for older adults with limited means to have access to care provided in assisted living settings and larger personal care homes.

Teledentistry Under Telehealth

Legislation to establish Teledentistry under the umbrella of Telehealth will bring more comprehensive dental care directly to those in long-term care facilities and rural areas by providing care in remote settings (outside of the dentist's office), thus reducing the oral disease burden.



Work and Save Program

Legislation would create a state-run retirement program for caregivers and working Georgians who otherwise would not have access to a formal retirement savings plan.