

# NC Coalition on Aging

## Status of 2015 Legislative Priorities

- Restore \$969,549 State Appropriation in Home and Community Care Block Grant

*Legislative Action: Non-recurring funding in the amount of \$969,549 was appropriated for each year of the biennium*

- Promote Legislation Supporting Family Caregivers

*Legislative Action: House Bill 816 (Study the Needs of Working Caregivers) passed the House on April 30, 2015, by a vote of 113-0 and is eligible for consideration in the short legislative session. This bill directs the Legislative Research Commission to conduct the study and to make its report to the 2016 Regular Legislative Session. Among issues to be studied are strategies for addressing the needs of working caregivers. House Bill 269/Senate Bill 337 (Caregiver Relief Act) received no action and will not be eligible for consideration in the short legislative session. These bill would have amend Labor Laws in the state to allow caregivers who are entitled to leave under the Family Medical Leave Act to use the leave to also care for a sibling, grandparent, grandchild, stepparent, or parent-in-law.*

- Preserve Medicaid Eligibility and Services for Older and Disabled Adults

*Legislative Action: No changes were made in Medicaid eligibility and services for older and disabled adults for FY 15-16. House Bill 372 (2015 Medicaid Modernization) which transforms and reorganizes the Medicaid and NC Health Choice Programs did pass. This reform legislation transitions Medicaid from fee-for-service to capitated, pre-paid health plans. Dual eligibles (those eligible for both Medicaid and Medicare) are initially excluded from this change; however, several questions have been raised as to whether wording in the bill is clear on this exclusion for those who are not in the aged program aid category.*

- Restore \$2,000,000 state appropriation in Adult Protective Services Fund

*Legislative Action: No action was taken to restore this funding.*

- Improve NC's Ability to Address Interstate Guardianship Transfer

*Legislative Action: House Bill 817 (Enact Uniform Law on Adult Guardianship) passed the House on April 30, 2015, by a vote of 115-0 and is eligible for consideration in the short legislative session. This bill includes provisions to create priority when two or more states appoint guardians for the same person, develops procedures for transferring guardianships between states, and allows a guardian to register an order from another state. Over 40 states have passed similar legislation.*