



COMING TOGETHER TO ADVOCATE FOR OLDER ADULTS

NC Coalition on Aging
December Update – December 20, 2017



**Best wishes for a wonderful holiday season
and for a new year of peace and happiness.**

**Thanks you for your support of the Coalition in 2017
and for being a part of the collaborative effort to continue
to give voice to issues that affect older North Carolinians.**

Coalition President Testifies Before Aging Subcommittee: Coalition President, Mary Bethel, joined 10 other presenters is addressing the Aging Subcommittee of the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services on December 13 to share ideas on the needs of older North Carolinians and recommendations for addressing these needs. She provided brief details about the Coalition and who are members are before discussing our priorities for the 2018 legislative session. She also addressed several system issues impacting aging in the state including: not enough people working in the aging field (particularly the shortage of direct care workers); lack of availability of services in many communities; shortage of safe, adequate, and affordable housing; and transportation challenges. She also noted some of the potential impacts on older adults and states such as North Carolina from the expected passage of new proposed federal tax reform legislation. To see a copy of all the handouts from the meeting, including Mary's, click [here](#).

Congress Passes Sweeping Tax Overhaul: The Senate voted along party lines by a vote of 51-48 early this morning to pass major tax reform legislation dubbed the Tax Cut and Jobs Act that has been sought by President Trump and Republican leaders. The House approved the bill earlier on Tuesday but will have to vote again on Wednesday because Democrats in the Senate persuaded the chamber's parliamentarian that several minor provisions in the House bill violated Senate rules. The House had approved the legislation by a vote of 227-203 with no Democrats

supporting it. Twelve Republicans also votes against the bill, including Rep. Walter B. Jones from North Carolina who expressed concern about the increased deficit created by the measure. The Senate's bill will go back to the House for a final vote today. President Trump touted the bill's passage on Twitter and said he would hold a news conference today at 1:00 p.m. To read more about the votes, click [here](#).

Aging Advocates Express Concerns about Tax Bill: Many aging advocacy organizations have expressed concerns that the tax reform legislation passed will hurt older Americans in a number of ways. Copied below is a report from Howard Bedlin, Vice President of Public Policy and Advocacy with the National Council on Aging, that notes some of the highlights of the final bill (note: This was written on Tuesday prior to the vote):

Straight Talk for Seniors®: The Final Tax Reform Bill

This week, the House and Senate will vote on a tax reform bill that merges the two versions passed earlier by each chamber. The latest bill still includes several provisions that NCOA and other aging advocates are concerned will harm older Americans, especially those who are most vulnerable. Below are highlights of the final bill now up for a vote.

- **Federal Deficit:** The bill increases the federal deficit by almost \$1.5 trillion. According to the nonpartisan official scorekeeping Joint Committee on Taxation (JCT), increases in economic growth would reduce that to about \$1.1 trillion. Recent statements from Republican leaders have made it clear that if the deficit increases significantly, their next priority will be to cut programs—including Medicare, Medicaid, the Older Americans Act (OAA), and possibly Social Security—to make up for it. In fact, the Congressional budget blueprint that Republicans passed this fall proposed \$473 billion in Medicare cuts, \$1 trillion in Medicaid cuts, and \$800 billion in cuts to non-defense discretionary programs like the OAA.
- **Individual Mandate:** The bill keeps the Senate provision to repeal the Affordable Care Act (ACA) individual mandate, which is projected to cause an estimated 13 million Americans to lose their health insurance. Approximately 3.3 million older adults aged 55-64 currently receive their health insurance under the ACA and could face premium increases of over \$1,000 per year.
- **Medical Expense Deduction:** It keeps the Senate provision to retain the Medical Expense Deduction for those with high out-of-pocket health costs, and it reduces the threshold from 10% to 7.5% for two years in 2018 and 2019. Almost 5 million taxpayers aged 65+ use the deduction.
- **State and Local Tax Deductions:** The bill maintains the House provision not to completely repeal all state and local tax deductions. It includes not only property taxes, but also state and local income and sales taxes, in reaching a \$10,000 cap.
- **Tax Cut Expiration:** It maintains the Senate provisions to make the corporate tax cuts permanent, while most tax cuts for individuals would expire in 2025. Extending these expiring cuts will increase the deficit even more than estimated.
- **Charitable Tax Deductions:** Although the bill maintains charitable tax deductions, it also increases the standard deduction and doubles the estate tax from \$5.5 million to \$11 million. According to JCT, doubling the standard deduction would reduce the number of

itemizers who deduct charitable contributions from 40.7 million to 9.4 million, reducing the amount of contributions by \$95.8 billion.

- **Consumer Price Index:** The bill increases taxes by about \$130 billion over 10 years by changing how inflation is measured to adjust income tax thresholds. By using a lower “chained” Consumer Price Index (CPI), many middle and lower-income taxpayers will be pushed more quickly into higher tax brackets due to inflation. These tax increases grow from \$2 billion in 2019 to about \$30 billion in 2027, and over \$500 billion from 2028-2037. Senior advocates are worried that this use of the chained CPI increases the chances that Social Security cost of living adjustments will be cut the same way in the future.
- **Program Cuts:** Due to the increased deficit and budget sequestration (PAYGO) rules, passage of the bill would automatically trigger \$136 billion in program cuts next year, including \$25 billion in Medicare cuts and potential elimination of the Prevention and Public Health Fund and Social Services Block Grant program. However, Congress is expected to waive these rules so that the cuts will not occur.

Continuing Resolution Likely to Keep Government Running: With all the attention being paid in Washington to the tax reform vote, looming on the horizon is the prospect that the federal government could shut down after Friday if the House and Senate do not approve a spending deal. A continuing resolution passed earlier in the month expires on December 22, and leaders in both chambers face a sticky situation as they have promised their members things that will not be supported in the other chamber. It is expected that another continuing resolution will likely be passed later this week kicking the budget approval process down the road to the new year. To learn more about this, click [here](#).

Fraud Awareness Campaign: Attorney General Josh Stein, Secretary of State Elaine Marshall, Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey, Health and Human Services Secretary Mandy Cohen, AARP North Carolina State Director Doug Dickerson, BBB of Winston-Salem President/CEO Brian Wright, BBB of Charlotte SVP Maryanne Dailey and USPS Postal Inspector Mike Carroll have joined together to share tips and alerts for consumers who will be doing extra giving and shopping during the holiday season. Throughout the month of December, these organizations are sharing information on holiday mail scams, shopping scams, charity and investment scams, and imposter scams via social media and a tele-town hall that was held on December 11. Content from the campaign can be found at <http://ncdoj.gov/dontgettaken>.

Lifespan Respite Voucher s Available: Reimbursement-based vouchers for \$500 are available to help unpaid caregivers across the state caring for an individual with special needs of any age through the Lifespan Respite Voucher program. The program is flexible and is centered around what will meet the caregiver’s needs. The caregiver may hire an agency, facility, or a familiar individual to care for his/her loved one while taking a break from their day to day caregiving responsibilities. To find out more about this, contact Pat Guarnieri at 828-265-5434 ext. 139 or pguarnieri@regiond.org or go to www.highcountryaging.org.

Applications for Low-Income Energy Assistance Being Accepted: Household including a person aged 60 or older, or an individual receiving disability benefits and services through the

NC Division of Aging and Adult Services are eligible to sign up for low-income energy assistance December 1-31. All other beneficiaries may apply from January 1-March 31, or until funds are exhausted. The energy assistance program is federally funded and provides a one-time payment directly to the utility company to help eligible households pay heating bills during the cold-weather months. Last year, the program provided approximately \$38 million to help more than 120,000 households pay their heating bills from December 2016 through March of 2017. For more information, contact the local county department of social services in your area.

Information on Adult Protective Services and Guardianship Listening Sessions: The handout shared by Joyce Massey-Smith at the Coalition's December 8 meeting on information learned at the listening sessions conducted by the NC Division of Aging and Adult Services on adult protective services and guardianship is attached to this *Update*. The bottom line from the listening sessions is that local departments of social services lack access to timely and adequate resources to serve adults in both of these program areas. The need for more support for both programs was echoed by most of the speakers who addressed the Aging Subcommittee on December 13.

Other News and Updates

Gov. Roy Cooper announced Monday that North Carolina will join the **Pew-MacArthur Results First Initiative** which is focused on investing taxpayer dollars wisely in programs and policies that are proven to work. He has tapped the Department of Health and Human Services (DHHS) as the first state agency in the state to partner with Results First. The partnership will focus initially on North Carolina public health programs that address child and maternal health and chronic diseases such as obesity and Type 2 Diabetes.

Some North Carolina insurance companies want to raise the price of **homeowners insurance** by about 18 percent, on average statewide, for property owners and 36 percent for renters and condominium owners. The North Carolina Rate Bureau, which represents the insurance companies, says the requested increase is needed to cover rising costs. Rates have not been increased since 2012. State insurance regulators will negotiate with the insurers on a rate increase. If they cannot come to a compromise, it will be up to Insurance Commissioner Mike Causey to approve any raise.

Federal court judges have set a **hearing date in the redistricting lawsuit** addressing legislative district maps. Judges will hold a hearing in Greensboro at 9:30 a.m. on January 5 on the report of the redistricting "special master," who was charged with creating alternative maps to be used in next year's election.

The proceeding from the UNC Kenan Institute's October conference on ***The Business of Healthcare: Adapting to an Aging Economy*** are now available. To download a copy of the report, click [here](#).

The Disability and Aging Collaborative has worked with Senators Portman (R Ohio) and Cantwell (D Washington) to introduce legislation that will extend the **Money Follows the Person** program for another five years. 63 national and 172 state organizations signed a letter supporting the legislation. The Money Follows the Person program assists states with transitioning older adults and persons with disabilities back home from nursing homes.

People who cope with **mental health** issues ranging from mild to severe were more likely to get **treatment in the wake of the Affordable Care Act**, (ACA) according to a study led by Kathleen C. Thomas, a health economist from UNC-Chapel Hill. The report, published in November in the journal *Psychiatric Services*, found that in the years since implementation of the ACA, people with mental health issues, including anxiety, depression, bipolar disorder or schizophrenia, were more likely to have a regular doctor and were less likely to skip health care and mental health care because of the expense.

People in the News

Robert Broome has been named executive director of the State Employees Association of North Carolina (SEANC), a Coalition member, effective January 1. He previously served as communications director for the NC Department of Transportation. He also worked in the past as a real estate lobbyist in several states, including North Carolina, and was interim director of the of the Governor's Highway Safety Program. In addition, he worked as a political consultant and as an analyst for the Tennessee state legislative. Broome replaces **Mitch Leonard**, a long-time Coalition supporter, who has lead SEANC since 2015.

Rep. Jason Saine, R-Lincoln, will be the next chairman of the American Legislative Exchange Council (ALEC), a conservative group backed by corporations that proposes model legislation for state legislators to introduce. He will serve a one-year term beginning January 1. He is the senior chairman of the House Finance Committee and has served in the House since 2011 when he was appointed to complete the term of a legislator who had resigned.

Rep. Bert Jones, R-Rockingham, announced in a Facebook post last weekend that he will not seek re-election in 2018. A dentist who lives in Reidsville, Jones is currently serving his fourth term in the House. He initially ran for office as an unaffiliated candidate but later joined the Republican caucus. He serves as a co-chairman of the House Health Committee and the House Elections and Ethics Law Committee. He says that he will be backing an unnamed "like-minded, well-qualified friend" to replace him. He joins a number of other legislators who have recently announced they will not seek re-election including **Rep. Susan Martin, R-Wilson; Sen. Cathy Dunn, R-Davidson; Sen. Tommy Tucker, R- Union; Sen. Bill Cook, R-Beaufort; Sen. Chad Barefoot, R-Wake; and Sen. Ronald Rabin, R-Harnett.**

NC Senate leader Phil Berger's office has announced that two staffers, scheduler and special projects director **Will Tomlinson** and policy advisor **Dylan Watts**, have left the office. Tomlinson is joining the legislature's Information Systems Division, which handles technology

for the legislative complex and its staff. Watts will be joining the N.C. Senate Republican Caucus staff, which helps manage campaigns. Berger's constituent liaison, **Graham Whitaker**, will fill Tomlinson's role.

Jonathan Sink began this month as deputy general counsel and policy advisor for NC House Speaker Tim Moore. He most recently worked as government affairs director for Mecklenburg County. He replaces **Mary Jennings**.

Senator Thom Tillis has announced that **Kim Canady Barnes** will serve as his next State Director and **Luke Blanchat** will serve as his Deputy State Director. Barnes will be replacing current State Director **Jordan Shaw**, who was recently named as Executive Vice President for the consulting firm OnMessage Inc.

The NC Association of County Commissioners has hired **Adam Pridemore** for its government relations and advocacy team. He will serve as legislative counsel, representing county interests at the General Assembly and executive branch state agencies. He will also assist the association on legal matters that affect counties. Previously he served as the legal affairs and policy manager for the NC Association of School Administrators and conducted legislative analysis for the UNC School of Government.

Jimmy Patel of Waxhaw has been named by Gov. Roy Cooper as an at-large member to the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging.

Rob Schofield has been named director of NC Policy Watch. At Policy Watch, he writes and edits daily online commentaries and handles numerous public speaking and electronic media appearances. He also delivers a radio commentary that's broadcast weekdays on WRAL-FM and WCHL and hosts News and Views, a weekly radio news magazine that airs on multiple stations across North Carolina.

Stacy Hurley, No Wrong Door/NC 2-1-1 Coordinator, and **Dave Cauthorn**, Housing/Home Improvement Specialist, both with the NC Division of Aging and Adult Services, have resigned to accept positions with the NC Emergency Management Division.

Best wishes for a speedy recovery to **Suzanne Merrill**, Director of the NC Division of Aging and Adult Services, who is recuperating from surgery.

Upcoming Meetings/Events

House Select Committee on Strategic Transportation Planning and Long Term Funding Solutions – January 8, 2018 at 1:00 p.m. in Room 544 of the Legislative Office Building in Raleigh.

Caregiving Academy (featuring Powerful Tools for Caregivers) sponsored by The Center for Volunteer Caregiving. Every Wednesday January 10 – February 14, 2018 from 11:00 a.m. to 1:00 p.m. at Wake County Southern Regional Center in Fuquay-Varina. Contact Renee Myatt at 919-460-05667 or myatt@ctrvolcar.org for information.

Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services – January 16, 2018 in the morning in Room 643 of the Legislative Office Building in Raleigh.

Webinar: Frontotemporal Degeneration: The Importance of Knowledge, Advocacy, and Support to Advance Quality Care sponsored by the Administration for Community Living's National Alzheimer's and Dementia Resource Center in partnership with the American Society on Aging - January 16, 2018 from 2:00 to 3:00 p.m. To register go to <http://asaging.org/web-seminars/frontotemporal-degeneration-importance-knowledge-advocacy-and-support-advance-quality-c>.

Webinar on Building Capacity to Serve Older Adults with Mental Health Conditions sponsored by the National I&R Support Center – January 19, 2018 from 3:00 to 4:00 p.m. To register go to: <https://nasuad.webex.com/nasuad/onstage/g.php?MTID=e80dd2f0fd8099e502c1a69ed131d039c>.

Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services Subcommittee on Aging – January meeting date to be determined

Check out the Coalition on Aging [website](#) for additional meetings and events. Please send information on events and activities to Mary Bethel at mmbethel72@gmail.com to be listed in the *Update* and posted on the Coalition's website.

Articles/News Stories/Resources

North Carolina Related:

Guardianship Reform on Tap in the North Carolina Legislature; NC Health News; <https://www.northcarolinahealthnews.org/2017/12/17/guardianship-reform-north-carolina-legislature/>

Mission back in network for Blue Cross Blue Shield patients; WLOS; <http://wlos.com/news/local/mission-back-in-network-for-blue-cross-blue-shield-patients>

Duke University picks insider, doctor as new leader; News & Observer; <http://www.newsobserver.com/news/business/article189833694.html>

New behavioral health unit opens at UNC Rex Healthcare thanks to \$2.5M gift; WNCN; <http://wncn.com/2017/12/13/new-behavioral-health-unit-opens-at-unc-rex-healthcare-thanks-to-2-5m-gift/>

Transitions LifeCare opens \$6M, 10-room Hospice Home expansion in Cary; Triangle Business Journal; <https://www.bizjournals.com/triangle/news/2017/12/13/transitions-lifecare-opens-6m-10-room-hospice-home.html>

Here's how the GOP's tax reform could thwart Raleigh's affordable housing plans; News and Observer; <http://www.newsobserver.com/news/local/counties/wake-county/article187133848.html>

Where will your retirement money last the longest? News and Observer; <http://www.newsobserver.com/news/business/article189196879.html>.

Carolinas HealthCare: Talks with UNC Health to stretch into 2018; Triangle Business Journal; <https://www.bizjournals.com/triangle/news/2017/12/13/carolinas-healthcare-talks-with-unc-health-to.html>

Wilmington retirement community apologizes for calendar; WCTI Greenville; <http://www.wcti12.com/news/state/north-carolina-retirement-community-apologizes-for-calendar/672417948>

Column: Neighbors Network helps county's older population live independently; Hickory Daily Record; http://www.hickoryrecord.com/news/column-neighbors-network-helps-county-s-older-population-live-independently/article_8afa5aa0-dfd8-5c3d-8b0a-1fd2fb1703fa.html

"Temporary is temporary:" DHHS Leaders Promise to Fix Cardinal, Then Get Out; NC Health News; <https://www.northcarolinahealthnews.org/2017/12/13/temporary-temporary-dhhs-leaders-promise-fix-cardinal-get/>

Flu Season Off to an Early — and Nasty — Start; WWAY; <https://www.wwaytv3.com/2017/12/12/flu-season-off-to-an-early-and-nasty-start/>

Worker at North Carolina nursing home accused of abuse; WNCN Raleigh/AP; <http://wncn.com/ap/worker-at-north-carolina-nursing-home-accused-of-abuse/>

11 ways to manage caregiving stress during the holidays; WTVD; <http://abc11.com/family/11-ways-to-manage-caregiving-stress-during-the-holidays/2753114/>

As hearing fades with age, dementia risk may rise; WECT; HealthDay News; <http://www.wect.com/story/37018852/as-hearing-fades-with-age-dementia-risk-may-rise>

Assisted living and special assistance; The Daily News;
<http://www.jdnews.com/opinion/20171207/david-silver-assisted-living-and-special-assistance>

Mental Health Providers Get Ready to Add Physical Care to Services; NC Health News;
<https://www.northcarolinahealthnews.org/2017/12/07/mental-health-providers-get-ready-to-add-physical-care-to-services/>

Christmas, holiday decorations banned at senior living community; WECT;
<http://www.wect.com/story/37011410/christmas-holiday-decorations-banned-at-senior-living-community>

Why Duke University is building a massive new nursing facility; Triangle Business Journal;
https://www.bizjournals.com/triangle/news/2017/12/04/why-duke-university-is-building-a-massive-new.html?ana=RSS&s=article_search&utm_source=feedburner&utm_medium=feed&utm_campaign=Feed%3A+bizj_triangle+%28Triangle+Business+Journal%29

Hope offered for patients with rare but deadly cancer; Greenville Daily Reflector;
<http://www.reflector.com/News/2017/12/05/Hope-offered-for-patients-with-rare-but-deadly-cancer.html>

N.C. Medicaid on track to remain under budget again as major changes loom; Carolina Journal Radio;
<https://www.carolinajournal.com/radio/n-c-medicaid-on-track-to-remain-under-budget-again-as-major-changes-loom/>

DHHS now accepting applications for low-income energy assistance; Salisbury Post;
<http://www.salisburypost.com/2017/12/03/dhhs-now-accepting-applications-for-low-income-energy-assistance/>

Gift ideas from the NC Assistive Technologies Program; WRAL;
<http://www.wral.com/gift-ideas-from-the-nc-assistive-technologies-program/17150272/>

What happens after a rural health clinic closes? WUNC; <http://wunc.org/post/what-happens-after-rural-nc-health-clinic-closes#stream/0>

NC officials respond after months-old data ‘breach’ revealed last week; WNCN Raleigh;
<http://wncn.com/2017/11/27/nc-officials-respond-after-months-old-data-breach-made-public-last-week/>

Court allows SNF to sue state over refusal to pay Medicaid bills; McKnight's Long-Term Care News; <http://www.mcknights.com/news/court-allows-snf-to-sue-state-over-refusal-to-pay-medicaid-bills/article/709709/>

Will Duke Energy customers pay to clean up the company's coal ash? AP; multiple outlets; http://www.journalnow.com/business/business_news/local/will-duke-energy-customers-pay-to-clean-up-the-company/article_b746a2bd-086b-5701-bf26-f5ab4d915710.html

Seeking rate increase, Duke Energy questions link between coal ash spill, coal ash bill; WRAL; <http://www.wral.com/seeking-rate-increase-duke-energy-dodges-link-between-coal-ash-spill-and-coal-ash-bill/17145054/>

The gift of health: Get your flu shot; Salisbury Post; <http://www.salisburypost.com/2017/11/28/the-gift-of-health-get-your-flu-shot/>

Government, developers transform languishing condos into affordable housing; Winston-Salem Journal; http://www.journalnow.com/news/local/government-developers-transform-languishing-condos-into-affordable-housing/article_ac247a55-8cff-5664-bcab-c8627463f485.html

NC health department introduces 'shot dodgers' TV spot to encourage vaccination; WRAL; <http://www.wral.com/nc-health-department-introduce-shot-dodgers-tv-spot-to-encourage-flu-vaccination/17136817/>

Nursing home operators file appeal on denial of new Winston-Salem assisted-living center; Winston-Salem Journal; http://www.journalnow.com/news/local/nursing-home-operators-file-appeal-on-denial-of-new-winston/article_86def6e7-5fbd-51fb-944d-14ab643e6b63.html

Independent living facility proposal on West Clemmons Road to be heard by Forsyth County commissioners; Winston-Salem Journal; http://www.journalnow.com/news/local/independent-living-facility-proposal-on-west-clemmons-ville-road-to-be/article_ee9289eb-62d4-5649-94e8-8e48bfe74ff3.html

Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services – [Handouts from December 12, 2017 Meeting](#)

Social Services Regional Supervision and Collaboration Working Group established by General Assembly ([Link to Workgroup Meetings and Materials](#))

Other:

More people die from the flu than previously estimated; WECT6;
<http://www.wect.com/story/37062820/more-people-die-from-the-flu-than-previously-estimated>

CDC touts new shingles vaccine as more than 90 percent effective; Multiple outlets;
http://www.hickoryrecord.com/news/trending/cdc-touts-new-shingles-vaccine-as-more-than-percent-effective/article_6aaaffc9-34ea-57c7-88f1-6cf9cde9a88c.html

Congress averts shutdown, sends Trump stopgap spending bill; AP; multiple outlets;
http://www.journalnow.com/news/nation_world/congress-averts-shutdown-sends-trump-stopgap-spending-bill/article_1b8cbcaf-3791-5462-9543-cd8e59afe61d.html

Pace Of U.S. Health Spending Slows In 2016; Kaiser Health News/NC Health News;
<https://www.northcarolinahealthnews.org/2017/12/08/pace-u-s-health-spending-slows-2016/>

AP Exclusive: Poor health and high expectations for Medicaid; AP; multiple outlets;
<http://www.starnewsonline.com/news/20171207/ap-exclusive-poor-health-and-high-expectations-for-medicaid>

CDC Report Details Health Disparities Between Rural Minorities; NC Health News;
<https://www.northcarolinahealthnews.org/2017/11/28/report-details-health-disparities-between-rural-minorities/>

Beyond Rx? CVS Health-Aetna deal may mean more services; AP;
<http://www.wral.com/beyond-rx-cvs-health-aetna-deal-may-mean-more-services/17159912/>

As Health Care Changes, Insurers, Hospitals and Drugstores Team Up; New York Times;
<https://www.nytimes.com/2017/11/26/health/health-care-hospitals-insurers.html?rref=collection%2Fsectioncollection%2Fhealth&action=click&contentCollection=health®ion=rank&module=package&version=highlights&contentPlacement=1&pgtype=sectionfront>

10,000 people died waiting for a disability decision in the past year. Will he be next? New York Times; http://www.washingtonpost.com/sf/local/2017/11/20/10000-people-died-waiting-for-a-disability-decision-in-the-past-year-will-he-be-next/?hpid=hp_rhp-top-table-main_disabledhearing-425am%3Ahomepage%2Fstory&utm_term=.14f85d424652

Massachusetts grabs spotlight by proposing new twist on Medicaid drug coverage; Kaiser Health News; https://www.washingtonpost.com/national/health-science/massachusetts-grabs-spotlight-by-proposing-new-twist-on-medicaid-drug-coverage/2017/11/19/df4e7a52-cae7-11e7-aa96-54417592cf72_story.html?utm_term=.5aed7676bd72

Find out healthful information about pleural mesothelioma, the most common type of asbestos-related cancer, from the [Pleural Mesothelioma Center](#).

NPR Aging Series:

- Older Adults' Forgetfulness Tied To Faulty Brain Rhythms In Sleep
- Reverberations Of War Complicate Vietnam Veterans' End-Of-Life Care
- Sometimes It Takes A 'Village' To Help Seniors Stay In Their Homes
- How The 'Village Movement' Is Being Adapted In Rural Areas
- Chicago Neighborhoods Are Trying To Adapt The 'Village Movement' Structure
- 'Village Movement' Allows Elderly To Age In Their Homes
- In The U.S., Flu Season Could Be Unusually Harsh This Year
- Should Eye Surgeons Fulfill A Dying Man's Wish To See His Family?
- Health Risks To Farmworkers Increase As Workforce Ages
- Adult Siblings Can Make Our Lives Healthier And Happier
- This Thanksgiving, Carve Out Time To Talk About End-Of-Life Wishes
- An Unexpected Friendship Brought The Sun Out Again For A Grieving Man
- 'The Longevity Economy': What Does It Mean To Be Old?

Next Coalition on Aging Meeting: The next meeting of the Coalition will be on Friday, January 26, from 10:00 a.m. to 12:00 noon in room 104 of the Brown Building which is located at 801 Biggs Drive on the Dix Campus in Raleigh (our usual meeting location). This is the hearing room for the NC Division of Health Service Regulation. Information about the meeting will be sent in January.

Membership Renewal: 2018 is almost here, so it is time to renew membership in the Coalition for the next year. It is also a good time for those who are not Coalition members to consider joining. Hopefully you are aware that we have worked hard to make the Coalition a visible and effective advocate for older North Carolina which gives voice to issues that are important to seniors and their family caregivers as well as to those who work in the field of aging in the state. Our legislative, public policy, education and outreach efforts do make a difference. As an example, our efforts to advocate for the establishment of a joint legislative committee that would examine issues pertaining to the state's older adult population were instrumental in having the Joint Legislative Oversight Committee on Health and Human Services form a Subcommittee on Aging this year. We were excited that we were asked to make a presentation to this Subcommittee at its next meeting on December 13.

We believe that the membership dues for the Coalition represent a good return on your investment. We are pleased that dues will remain at \$100 a year (January through December) for agencies, organizations, and groups and \$20 a year for supporting individuals. Benefits of membership in the Coalition include the following:

- Opportunity to share and network with colleagues from around the state.
- Receive in-person updates on aging issues, and hear presentations on hot topics at regular membership meetings.

- Have a collective voice in advocating for and raising awareness about issues impacting older North Carolinians.
- Be included in the selection of annual legislative priority issues.
- Receive monthly updates, including legislative updates, on issues related to aging.
- Receive action alerts with talking points when contact is needed with your legislator, member of Congress, or other policy makers.
- Get discounts on registration for the Coalition's annual meeting.

Hopefully you are aware that Coalition members recently voted to take a number of steps to strengthen the long-term viability of the Coalition which will position us to increase our visibility and presence at the table as well as our financial resources. We are in the process of establishing a work group that will take the lead in directing our efforts to move to this next level. With this in mind, if you value the work of the Coalition and are in a position to help future support what the Coalition does, we encourage you to consider making an additional contribution to the Coalition this year. Anything above and beyond the regular dues amount you pay will be put to good use and will make a difference in what we are able to do as a Coalition.

Membership registration/renewal can be done in one of two ways. You can complete and return the form attached to this *Update* along with dues payment (payable to the NC Coalition on Aging) to the address noted on the form. A second option is to go to <http://www.nccoalitiononaging.org/membership.aspx> and complete the registration and payment process (PayPal) on-line. Contributions in addition to dues can also be paid in this way. The Coalition has a hardship provision for those who wish to join the Coalition but are unable to pay the full dues amount. To apply for this hardship provision, please contact Mary Bethel, Coalition President, at mmbethel72@gmail.com.

Submitting Information for Updates: If you have news or information on activities and events you would like to have included in an *Update* to Coalition members, please send details to Mary Bethel, Coalition President, at mmbethel72@gmail.com. The Coalition also posts a master calendar of aging related events and activities on the Coalition's website.

Have questions about the Coalition on Aging or need more information, including information about joining the Coalition or renewing membership, please contact us at mmbethel72@gmail.com or check out our website at <http://www.nccoalitiononaging.org/>.