

## NC Coalition on Aging 2023 Legislative Successes

The Coalition is very pleased that the General Assembly took positive action on a number of the key issues on our legislative agenda including the expansion of Medicaid, a priority for the Coalition for over a decade. Among the approximately 600,000 North Carolinians expected to gain access to health care due to expansion are a significant number of people aged 55 to 65 who have chronic health conditions.

The budget also provides funding to keep in place the temporary Covid-19 Medicaid rate increases for services provided to our most vulnerable older adults and persons with disabilities, another Coalition priority. The temporary funding has been essential in helping providers of services across the continuum of long term care address critical workforce needs that existed prior to the pandemic but have become even greater in the last several years. Loss of this funding would have presented great challenges to many programs in our state and could have resulted in significant closure or scaling back of operations across the continuum.

Outside of the budget, the General Assembly has passed legislation to update the state guardianship statutes (included in SB 615). Revamping these statutes has also been on the Coalition's legislative priority list for several years. A big shout out to all those involved with the Rethinking Guardianship collaborative effort in the state, which includes numerous Coalition members, who carried the heavy lifting on this effort to advocate for needed guardianship protections and options.

Thanks is extended to Coalition members for their advocacy on behalf of all the issues on our legislative agenda this year. Our collective voices are being heard. We celebrate the successes this year and will continue to push for those things that still need addressing.