



News Media Release

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(L to R Outgoing Georgia Council on Aging Chair, Vicki Johnson, Rep. Lee Hawkins, Gainesville 27th House District)

Representative Lee Hawkins Named 2022 Outstanding Legislator of the Year

Atlanta, GA – July 14, 2022 – Representative Lee Hawkins, of District 27, was recognized as the 2022 Legislator of the Year by the Georgia Council on Aging’s Coalition of Advocates for Georgia’s Elderly (CO-AGE) on Thursday, July 14, 2022. This annual recognition is bestowed upon a legislator who shows outstanding commitment to Georgia’s seniors throughout the legislative session. Representative Hawkins championed two pieces of legislation that were priorities for CO-AGE this year. The first, HB1304, the Georgia Caregivers Act, intends to improve care for patients following their discharge from hospitals. With this act, patients now have the right to designate a lay caregiver who will be notified about discharge plans and will be informed about medical tasks to be performed at home. Representative Hawkins guided the bill through House passage and worked with Senator Dean Burke to move it through the Senate. Governor Kemp signed the bill into law in May. The second, HR768, would create a House Study Committee on Expanding Long-Term Care Options. Representative Hawkins successfully presented the resolution to the House Special Committee on Access to Quality Health Care.

While it did not make it to the House floor for a vote before the end of the session, his sponsorship initiated an important policymaker discussion about modernizing long-term care options in Georgia.

Representative Hawkins serves as Chair of the House Budget and Fiscal Affairs Oversight Committee, and as a member of Rules, Appropriations, Health and Human Services, Insurance, Banks and Banking, Regulated Industries, and Small Business Development committees.

Representative Lee Hawkins was born in Gainesville, Georgia. He graduated from Gainesville High School and went on to attend Oxford College, Emory University, and the University of Georgia for his undergraduate and post-graduate degrees. He returned to Emory University School of Dentistry to earn his D.D.S. degree. Dr. Hawkins recently retired from practicing dentistry and now his son, Ben carries on his legacy in their hometown of Gainesville. Dr. Hawkins has also served as president of the Georgia Dental Association (GDA).

In 2007 Dr. Hawkins was elected to the Georgia State Senate, serving until 2010. In 2013, he was elected to the Georgia House of Representatives, where he represents the House District 27, which includes Hall and White counties.

Representative Hawkins has received many other Legislator awards and can now add this distinction of the 2022 CO-AGE Legislator of the Year to his list of honors. Representative Hawkins accepted his award in Macon, GA at CO-AGE's annual July meeting in which aging advocates from across the state gather to learn and exchange in order to better serve Georgia's seniors.

The Georgia Council on Aging (GCOA) was created by the Georgia General Assembly in 1977 to advise the governor, assembly, and state agencies on matters relating to Georgia's seniors. Members of the 20-person council, drawn from every region of the state, also advocate for aging Georgians and their families and make recommendations to lawmakers and agencies on programs for seniors.

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