

LEGISLATIVE

Expand Nursing Home Options

Submitted by: Carol Hanlon, Wisdom Project 2030, Inc.

The problem:

Georgia's Department of Community Health's regulations for licensing new skilled nursing facilities (SNFs) are subject to the Certificate of Need (CON) requirements that cover all health care facilities. Adopting innovative models of care that can improve the quality of life for Georgia's aging population can be limited by the CON requirements mandated to prevent the oversupply based on the quantity of existing nursing home beds in a community. Other states allow expanded choices such as the Green house model and the CMS approved household model with smaller communities that function more like a home.

What other states are doing:

Thirteen U.S. states require no Certificate of Need (CON) for the construction of new SNFs. Arkansas and North Carolina use Civil Monetary Penalty funds for construction grants and culture change initiatives.

What this legislation would do:

Request a legislative study committee to consider possible changes to CON requirements to encourage innovative models of person-centered care. Topics for study would include:

- Expand and elevate long-term care options available to aging Georgians,
- Attract more private pay SNF residents and also improve choices for SNF Medicaid residents
- Encourage SNF operators to adopt innovative practices which can improve the quality of life and care for their residents.

Any opposition:

Changing the Certificate of Need (CON) statute is very difficult because of the big impact on health care facilities, especially hospitals.

Helpful Resources:

Nancy Pitra – AARP Georgia, npitra@aarp.org

Claire Lucas – The Green House Project, clucas@thegreenhouseproject.org

Kim McRae – The Culture Change Network of Georgia, ccngsocial@gmail.com

Rose Marie Fagan – Pioneer Network, rmfagan6923@gmail.com

Michael Starke – PMD Advisory Services, Michael.starke@pmdas.com