

2022 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

PASS THE GEORGIA CAREGIVERS ACT

THE ISSUE

PROVIDERS NEED DESIGNATED CAREGIVERS

Without designated caregivers health providers don't know who can help with post-discharge patient care.



THE FIX

HOSPITALS MUST INTEGRATE CAREGIVERS IN DISCHARGE PLANS

Designate and record the name of a caregiver when a loved one is admitted to a hospital, if the patient chooses to designate one.



CAREGIVERS NEED ADEQUATE NOTICE OF DISCHARGE



When patients are discharged on short notice caregivers must scramble to coordinate transition care without risking loss of employment.

SHARE DISCHARGE PLANS WITH CAREGIVERS

Notify the caregiver well in advance when the patient is to be discharged back home.



"States where Healthcare organizations that practice meaningful family caregiver engagement and integrate caregivers into the patient discharge process can reduce hospital readmissions by one-quarter, according to research from the University of Pittsburgh Medical Center."

— Nancy Pitra, Associate State Director of Advocacy, AARP Georgia.

GEORGIA COUNCIL ON AGING 2022 LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES

PASS THE GEORGIA CAREGIVERS ACT

✗ THE ISSUE

CAREGIVERS NEED TO BE PREPARED



Unprepared caregivers put patients at risk for health problems when they get overwhelmed without support and training. Too often patients will end up readmitted to hospitals.

✓ THE FIX

PROVIDE CAREGIVER INSTRUCTIONS AND TRAINING

Instruct caregivers on the medical tasks to be performed at home before the patient is discharged.



CO-AGE is focused on helping older adults attain their best possible health wherever they are living.

About GCOA

The Council was created in 1977 by the Georgia legislature to serve in an advisory capacity on aging issues to the Governor, General Assembly, Department of Human Services, and all other state agencies.

About CO-AGE

The Coalition of Advocates for Georgia's Elderly (CO-AGE) is a diverse group of organizations, individuals, consumers, and providers interested in improving the quality of life for older Georgians through public policy.