

TN COALITION FOR BETTER AGING

Promoting the general welfare of older Tennesseans and their families through partnerships that mobilize resources to educate and advocate for important policies and programs.

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Dear State Legislator:

We're writing on behalf of the Tennessee Coalition for Better Aging (TCBA), made up of many organizations across Tennessee that support the health and general welfare of aging Tennesseans and their caregivers. We believe that Tennessee should be a healthy place to age and retire, and family caregivers should have the support they need to care for loved ones. Unfortunately, our state currently ranks 51st for support of family caregivers and 42nd in health outcomes for those age 65 and older, so we are writing to ask for your consideration and leadership to improve these rankings.

Priority issues for TCBA member organizations include: 1) addressing the direct care worker shortage, 2) improving family caregiver support, 3) expanding capacity for direct home- and community-based (HCBS) client services, and 4) expanding community-based residential alternatives.

TCBA urges you to seriously consider these 2024 opportunities in support of older Tennesseans and family caregivers:

- **SB 2098/HB 2098 Tennessee Disability and Aging Act of 2024**
Sponsors: Sen. Jack Johnson; Rep. William Lamberth
Summary: Tennessee Commission on Aging and Disability (TCAD) merging under the Department of Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities (DIDD) to create the Department of Disability and Aging
- **SB 2117/HB 2261 Hospitals and Health Care Facilities- Defines Tier 1 Home for the Aged**
Sponsors: Sen. Becky Massey; Rep. Dave Wright
Summary: Defines a home for the aged housing three or fewer nonrelated persons as a tier 1 home for the aged subject to licensure by DIDD; defines a home for the aged that houses four or more nonrelated persons as a tier 2 home for the aged subject to licensure by health facilities commission
- **SJR 0848 Paid Family Caregiving Resolution**
Sponsors: Sen. Ken Yager
Summary: Urges development of a comprehensive statewide Paid Family Caregiving Policy & Program

MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

AgeWell Middle TN	FiftyForward	Northwest Development District	TN Assoc. of Area Agencies on Aging & Disability
Aging Commission of Mid South	First TN Area Agency on Aging and Disability	South Central TN Area Agency on Aging and Disability	Tennessee Disability Coalition
Alzheimer's Association Middle Tennessee	Greater Nashville Regional Council	Southeast TN Area on Aging and Disability	Tennessee Health Care Campaign
Alzheimer's Tennessee	InterFaith Dental	Southwest TN Area Agency on Aging and Disability	Tennessee Justice Center
Centennial Adult Care Centers	Mental Health America of Mid-South	TN Alliance for Legal Services (TALS)	Tennessee Respite Coalition
East TN Area Agency on Aging and Disability (East TN Human Resource Agency)	Mid-Cumberland HRA	TN Association of Adult Day Services	Upper Cumberland Development District/AAAD
	National Association of Social Workers- TN Chapter		UT College of Social Work
			Vanderbilt University Medical Center

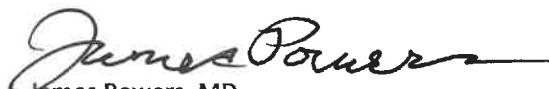
- SB 0459/ HB 0416 PACE-Program of All Inclusive Care for the Elderly**
 Sponsors: Sen. Bo Watson; Rep. Caleb Hemmer
 Summary: Directs TennCare to establish a statewide program of all-inclusive care for the elderly (PACE) for individuals eligible for nursing facility levels of care; sets minimum enrollment limits; authorizes the director to seek any federal waiver necessary to establish the program. - Amends TCA Title 71
- SB 2791/HB 2940 TennCare for Working Individuals with Disabilities Act**
 Sponsors: Sen. Bo Watson; Rep. Tim Hicks
 Summary: Creates an option for working adults with disabilities to pay a premium to access TennCare services (like Home and Community-based Services), while having income and assets above the current Medicaid eligibility threshold
- SB 2036/HB 1939 TennCare Redefining Eligibility Status for Individuals Residing in the Same Home**
 Sponsors: Sen. Richard Briggs; Rep. Antonio Parkinson
 Summary: TennCare - Prohibits an individual from being considered ineligible to provide TennCare reimbursed home- and community-based long-term services to an individual because the individual receiving care resides in the same home as the individual providing the care
- SB 0234/HB 0528 Limit Solicitations of Homeowners by Developers Trying to Buy Their Homes**
 Sponsors: Sen. Charlane Oliver; Rep. Dwayne Thompson
 Summary: Limits the number of times that a real estate developer, business entity, or individual working on behalf of the developer or business entity is permitted to contact a property owner to make an unsolicited offer to buy the owner's property
- SB 2368/HB 2147 Wheelchair Maintenance and Repair**
 Sponsors: Sen. Bo Watson; Rep. Michael Hale
 Summary: Requires suppliers of power and manual wheelchairs to offer preventative maintenance and repair malfunctions; creates a pathway for independent repair persons to do some repair
- Affordable, Supportive Housing** – There is a dire shortage of affordable, supportive housing for older Tennesseans and other vulnerable populations such as children aging out of foster care and adults with physical and mental health needs. Several of our members are also part of the TN Supportive Housing Coalition which has shared a proposal with Gov. Lee and Speaker Sexton to increase supportive housing and provide home repairs and modifications for older homeowners. TennCare’s shared savings and unspent fiscal recovery funds can help address this critical social determinant of health. We urge state leaders to prioritize investing in affordable, supportive housing for older adults and other vulnerable populations, and to increase funds for home repairs & modifications for older homeowners.

Thank you for your consideration of our priority issues and opportunities to make a difference for older adults and caregivers across Tennessee.

Sincerely,



Grace S. Smith, LMSW
 TCBA Co-Chair
 AgeWell Middle TN



James Powers, MD
 TCBA Co-Chair
 Vanderbilt Univ. Medical Center