



News Release

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The Implementation of SEA 493 is a Key to Resolving Indiana's Medicaid Funding and Service Delivery Crisis According to a New Study from The Generations Project

(Indianapolis) Today, The Generations Project, a non-profit policy education organization based in Indianapolis, released a major study of Indiana's publicly funded system of home and community based long term care for senior citizens and persons with disabilities. The study, completed with funding from The Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust, concludes that implementing a sweeping reform law passed by the General Assembly in 2003 is a key to resolving the state's Medicaid funding and service delivery crisis.

John Cardwell, Director of The Generations Project, stated: "Indiana has had an imbalanced long term care system dating back to the 1970s. Over time that imbalance has shifted a greater and greater volume of dollars and human resources into nursing homes and has inappropriately forced countless thousands into nursing homes at an enormous human and financial cost to our state. In 2003, the state legislature sought to address this crisis but the state administration at that time chose not to implement the major features of the new law at that time. Today, the Moving Forward study proves that to solve the fiscal and service delivery crisis that is gripping Medicaid the state must implement the positive reforms in SEA 493."

Elmer Blankenship, President of the project's governing board and state president of the Indiana Alliance for Retired Americans, added: "Tens of thousands of Hoosiers of all ages are on waiting lists for publicly funded home and community based care. The failure to provide services to these people who need help in order to afford proper home care services is a great burden on everyone in our state. But this burden can be lifted if SEA 493 is implemented. The Moving Forward study shows SEA 493 can "eliminate any remaining program and services gaps that impede the further development of community-based programs in Indiana." The study also concludes that re-balancing our long term care system "is a very reachable goal that has already been achieved in several states across the nation."

Cliff Willis, also a member of the project's governing board and Associate State Director for Communications for AARP Indiana, added: "The Moving Forward study makes it very clear that by taking full advantage of Medicaid waivers and the CHOICE program to keep people out and to move people out of Medicaid funded nursing home care into publicly funded home and community based care more people can get the services they need. Fully implementing SEA 493 also means unwanted nursing home utilization can be dramatically reduced, and the public savings generated by doing these things will provide the funds

to get people off of the waiting lists for home care services. This is clearly a win-win situation for long term care consumers, their families, taxpayers, and the state of Indiana."

Will Phillips concluded: "The Moving Forward study shows us the state's Medicaid funding crisis can be resolved through positive measures. In 2003, the mobilization of an educated public substantially contributed to the unanimous passage of SEA 493 through the General Assembly. Now, through this report and other efforts, we believe that a high level of public awareness will again yield favorable results for Hoosiers through the creation of a balanced and responsive system of long term care. The financial support of The Health Foundation of Greater Indianapolis and The Nina Mason Pulliam Charitable Trust has in large part made this effort possible."