



Aging and Adult Services  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

RICHARD O. BRAJER  
*Secretary*

WILLIAM H. GRIFFIN  
*Chairperson, Governor's Advisory Council on Aging*

January 4, 2016

The Honorable Governor Pat McCrory  
20301 Mail Service Center  
Raleigh, North Carolina 27699

Dear Governor McCrory,

With honor and privilege, I serve as the Chairperson of the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging. As a council, we have spent the year dedicated to seeking what is truly important to older adults in North Carolina. On behalf of the council, we are delighted to have relationships with many in North Carolina State Government. In particular, Cara Townsend, your Policy Analyst, has attended two of our meetings and Suzanne Merrill, Director of the Division of Aging and Adult Services, is very supportive of our work and activities. We are grateful to all of our council members and colleagues who have been so helpful. It is our hope that you will be able to join us for one of our council meetings in the near future!

As authorized by legislation (NCGS 143B-180), we as a council are submitting our recommendations for your consideration for the coming legislative year. Within the context of our current fiscal and philosophical political environment, the Governor's Advisory Council on Aging sees solutions to the challenges of our aging population in a more effective integration of social supports and medical services. This will both lower medical costs and improve healthcare outcomes. As the State enters a period of Medicaid transformation, our 2016 legislative recommendations are as follows:

- Expand programs such as PACE (Program of All-Inclusive Care of the Elderly) which have demonstrated lower costs and

 Nothing Compares<sup>SM</sup>



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improved healthcare outcomes. This is just one example of how the integration of social services and medical services can best support the needs of older adults and keep them living in the community and not in institutions.

- Restore the \$969,549 state appropriation to the Home and Community Care Block Grant (HCCBG) as a recurring appropriation. The HCCBG makes funds available for an array of social services, including adult day/day health care, care management, home delivered meals, home health, housing and home improvement, information and assistance, in-home aide services, respite care, senior companion and transportation. The Home and Community Care Block Grant state appropriation of \$969,549 was restored for only fiscal years 2015-16 and 2016-17.
- Re-instate the North Carolina Study Commission on Aging in the General Assembly as a vehicle for research and action regarding all legislation pertaining to older adults.
- Support the review and revision of the NC Adult Protective Services program including its authorizing legislation and its funding sources. This is a broad issue that could be reviewed by the Study Commission on Aging.
- Support HB 817-An Act Enacting the Uniform Adult Guardianship and Protective Proceeding Jurisdiction Act of 2015, a bill that is eligible for consideration in the short session. The Act sets out a way to resolve multi-state adult guardianship jurisdictional issues.

As a council, we thank you for taking our recommendations seriously, and we are willing and able to assist as possible. We are extremely passionate about our calling and mission. It is our hope that we as a council might make some small difference in the lives of the fastest





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**growing and most vulnerable population age group in our state.  
Please call on us as necessary.**

**With very kind regards, I am**

**Sincerely,**

**William H. Griffin**  
**Chairperson**

**Cc: Richard O. Brajer, Cara Townsend, Suzanne Merrill, Governor's  
Advisory Council on Aging**

