

## CHOICE Home Care Needs Your Help!

The **Community and Home Options to Institutional Care for the Elderly and Disabled (CHOICE)** program has served tens of thousands of Hoosiers and their family caregivers since its passage by the 1987 General Assembly. On countless occasions, CHOICE has been a vital service to senior citizens and persons with disabilities. It allows people who require just a few hours of care each day to remain in their homes with part time assistance, rather than being forced prematurely into round the clock nursing facilities.

Throughout the years, CAC has fought and helped to get the state to maintain full funding for CHOICE. This year, legislation has been introduced in the 2013 Indiana General Assembly that would provide much needed reform to home care programs like CHOICE.

### HB1428, if enacted in state law, would:

- Stop the forced placement of an individual in a nursing home without the individual's written consent or the written consent of the individual's legal guardian.
- Require the state to provide **Home and Community Based Services (HCBS)** within 29 days of determining an individual's eligibility.
- Require any Medicaid savings that are created by keeping an individual out of a nursing home to be used to fund HCBS.
- Ensure that CHOICE funds would be used only for CHOICE services.
- Require the state to establish a viable network of independent HCBS providers, expanding the pool of qualified home care workers, improving home health care outcomes, and saving a large amount of money for taxpayers.



## CHOICE is more cost-effective than other types of long-term care!

- **Nursing facilities:** the average yearly cost of nursing home care paid for through Medicaid is \$43,752 per person. The state pays **\$14,876** and the federal government pays \$28,876. (*2011 AARP CHOICE Factsheet*)
- **Aged & Disabled (A&D) Medicaid Waivers:** the average yearly cost per Medicaid enrollee is \$36,504. The state pays **\$12,411** and the federal government pays \$24,093. (A&D Waivers pay for nursing home qualified persons that choose to live at home or in a residential community if care in those facilities can be obtained at a lower cost.) (*2011 AARP CHOICE Factsheet*)
- **CHOICE:** the average yearly cost of services through the CHOICE program is **\$4,000-\$7,000** per person. (*2011 The Generations Project. Home and Community Based Services in Federal and State Policy: Considerations from Indiana and elsewhere.*)

**HB1428 pays for itself by keeping any money saved in the state Medicaid Budget. Those savings result from using HCBS instead of Medicaid funded nursing home care!**

Other states have used this "self-funding mechanism" in their Medicaid budgets to dramatically grow the use of HCBS, to dramatically reduce the use of nursing home care, and to even generate budget surpluses that can be used for other purposes.

**The need for CHOICE is tremendous. According to FSSA, 7,093 people were served in 2011 by the CHOICE program. Another 6,000 people are on the waiting list for CHOICE services.**

People overwhelmingly say they do not want to end up in nursing homes. The CHOICE program helps protect the dignity and independence of our elderly and disabled citizens and saves Indiana money in the long run. Especially in these hard economic times, Indiana must make a greater investment in home and community based services like the CHOICE program. HB1428 would do this!



## **Take Action Now!**

CHOICE remains the right direction for Indiana. It helps thousands of people stay out of nursing homes and results in significant savings for Indiana taxpayers. Our elderly and disabled citizens are relying on us to make sure they can live with dignity in the later years of their lives.

**Legislation is currently pending in the House Public Health Committee of the 2013 Indiana General Assembly that deserves a hearing!**

- **Contact Rep. Ed Clere, Chair of the Public Health Committee and tell him to give HB1428 a hearing. Call 317-232-9648 or email [h72@in.gov](mailto:h72@in.gov).**
- **Contact all members of the Public Health Committee and tell them to SUPPORT HB1428.**

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