



I represent the Board of Directors and membership of the Georgia Association of Community Care Providers (GACCP). We are more than 350 Georgia home and community-based services providers offering a variety of programs to allow the aged and infirmed population to remain in their homes. Each of you has a notebook that includes copies of today's testimony, as well as, the supporting documentation for our various services and our recommendations to you today.

Home and community-based services (HCBS) is an important part of the healthcare continuum – especially as we age and lose acuity level. I would submit that each of your lives have been touched by a family member, friend or neighbor that has either provided caregiver services; or, received care in their homes. I also submit that each of us in this room here today prefer the comfort of our own homes; and, most certainly, want to stay in our homes as long as possible. The Medicaid Waiver Programs provide Georgians with the opportunity to do just that –remain in their homes and communities as they age.

The Board of Directors and the members of the Georgia Association of Community Care Providers recommend that the Medicaid Waiver Programs be grown within the current budgetary constraints. We have been an integral part of these Medicaid Waiver Programs, working since the early 1990's to allow more Georgians to remain in their homes. Based on a SFY 2012 Report, DCH has documented that we can serve 2.84 residents in home and community-based services for each resident that is served in a skilled nursing facility. And, just two of the Medicaid Waiver Programs generate savings that now exceed \$500 million annually. Georgia's >65 population is already expanding rapidly. This expansion is expected to continue with more than 900,000 seniors added to the Georgia population by the year 2030. We also recognize that home and community-based services are not in competition with skilled nursing facilities; rather we are the care step prior to a skilled facility. This sequence is well documented by DCH, highlighting that home and community-based programs defer skilled nursing facility placement by 47 months. In each of these 47 months, the Medicaid Waiver Programs save money and satisfy residents by allowing them to remain in their homes. And as an additional benefit to Medicaid, these home and community-based services provide assistance with activities of daily living (ADL's), nutrition assistance, medicine reminders, ambulation assistance, and many other intervention techniques to minimize costly emergency room visits. On the basis of this documented data, we know that our recommendation is a win – win for all Georgians and Medicaid.

On behalf of the Georgia Association of Community Care Providers, thanks to each of you for your time and attention here today. Our business cards are in the front of each notebook should you have any follow-up questions after we leave here today.