



Protecting Seniors, Respecting Taxpayers – *The Right Agenda for Texas*

More than ever in our history, Texas is facing enormous economic, social and demographic challenges. To preserve, protect and defend Texas seniors' growing care needs, it is essential for our long-term care profession and lawmakers to work together in the 2009 legislative session to improve the way we fund and provide their care.

Growing evidence shows that improved investment in long-term care services now can reduce the utilization of much higher cost hospital and emergency room services in the future. Seniors benefit from improved care, while taxpayers benefit from the more efficient use of tax dollars. The time for investing in a modern long-term care system for Texas is now, and the smart reforms that will benefit every Texas citizen are at hand if we work constructively together to achieve them.

The key first step is supporting the Health and Human Services Commission's (HHSC) Consolidated Budget target specifying \$368 million in new General Revenue spending is needed for the 2010-2011 biennium to address the operating and staffing needs of Texas' nursing homes.

CONSIDER THE FACTS:

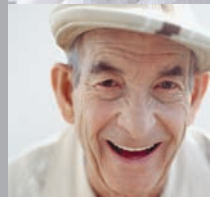
- Since 1999, the Texas legislature has failed to appropriately fund the cost increases necessary to care for Medicaid nursing home residents.
- Texas Medicaid nursing home rates now rank **49th** lowest in the nation.
- 60 nursing facilities have closed their doors since January 2006.
- 68 percent of Texas' nursing home providers lose money caring for Medicaid-financed nursing home residents.
- 60,000 Texas seniors depend upon adequate Medicaid funding for their care.

These 60,000 Texas seniors are among our most vulnerable citizens – typically in their 80's, and afflicted with chronic health conditions. The caregivers in our nursing homes provide residents with quality care – 24 hours a day, 7 days a week, 365 days a year. But providers simply cannot survive in this current funding environment, and our oldest seniors do not deserve to have their growing care needs shortchanged.

It is imperative that the 81st Legislature appropriate \$368 million in new General Revenue for Medicaid nursing home care in accordance with HHSC estimates.

We commit to work together to ensure every senior is protected, and every taxpayer is respected by pursuing an intelligent, new eldercare policy every Texas citizen can, and should, be proud of.

The Texas Health Care Association
www.txhca.org



Health and Human Services Commission Consolidated Budget 2010-2011 Nursing Facility Medicaid Funding Estimates

November 7, 2008

	% Increase	Biennial General Revenue	Biennial All Funds	Consolidated Budget Page #
Fund Rate Methodology	12.40%	\$249,369,191	\$599,438,725	85
Improve Fixed Capital Component	2.5%	\$50,276,047	\$120,854,582	85
Fund Minimum Wage Impact	1.01%	\$20,206,406	\$48,573,095	85
Fully Fund Staff Enhancement	2.39%	\$47,941,084	\$115,242,989	96
TOTAL	NA	\$367,792,728	\$884,109,391	NA