

Dallas Morning News - Business Section "Letters for Sunday" - August 3, 2008

Long-term solutions

Re: "Ensuring care in your old age," by Bob Moos, July 27 Business section

The article points out the need for new funding sources to provide greater consumer choice and protection over the long term as Texas' aging population requires more extensive long-term care services, but public funds such as Medicare are unable to cover the state's growing care needs.

What's more pressing, though, is the increasing inability of Medicaid to cover quality long-term care for Texas beneficiaries. As the article stated, Medicare does not cover many long-term care costs, and growing numbers of adults are forced to rely on Medicaid for their coverage. Unfortunately, though the state has determined it costs \$120 per day to adequately meet the growing care needs of our rapidly aging population of seniors, it pays only \$106.59.

Skilled nursing facilities in Texas need more support. And speaking on behalf of the front-line caregivers, administrators and others providing quality long-term care in Texas, I hope we can count on our legislators to help us find solutions not only for the years ahead, but also for the here and now.

Tim Graves,

President and CEO,

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