2018 NVAN Priorities

LEGISLATIVE

- Designate the third full week of September each year as “Fall Prevention Awareness Week,” to raise public understanding of this significant community health issue.

- Expand access for use of medical marijuana for treatment of certain conditions or alleviation of symptoms of specified diseases, with a valid prescription.

BUDGET

- Appropriate $440,000 to improve access to services and supports for older adults, individuals with disabilities, caregivers, veterans and families by bringing the local Adult Protective Services and Adult Services programs into the No Wrong Door Virginia network.

- Appropriate $235,204 (10% of full funding needed) toward bringing the state’s Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program up to the state and national standard of one full-time ombudsman for every 2,000 nursing home and assisted living beds.

- Mandate minimum nursing home staffing requirements adjusted for resident acuity in all licensed nursing home facilities and increase the Medicaid nursing home reimbursement rate to account for the mandate.

- In addition to its General Assembly priorities, NVAN supports the completion of an in-depth study on family caregiving in Virginia (including public policy recommendations) directed by the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services.

CONTINUING CONCERNS

- Provide living wages, paid sick days, overtime pay, and training for long-term care workers to build a quality, cost-effective workforce.

- Fund home and community-based services through Area Agencies on Aging and Center for Independent Living.

- Expand the Northern Virginia RAFT (Regional Older Adult Facilities Mental Health Team) education program, which provides consultation and training for facility and hospital staff in caring for residents with serious mental illness and/or dementia with difficult behaviors.

- Improve dental care for older Virginians through education, enhancing services in long-term care and through community clinics, and providing services for adult Medicaid beneficiaries.

- Require the Virginia Board of Medicine to mandate geriatric training for all medical students attending Virginia state medical universities in core clinical concentrations in Family Medicine or Internal Medicine.

- Expand Medicaid to provide healthcare to up to 400,000 Virginians (including 62,000 older adults), create 30,000 jobs, and keep our federal tax dollars in the Commonwealth.

ABOUT NVAN

NVAN includes the Commissions on Aging and Area Agencies on Aging of Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William, as well as regional service and advocacy organizations.

Contact NVAN

Or to request this information in an alternate format, call 703-324-5403 or TTY 703-449-1186.