



Long-Term Care Financing Collaborative

*A project of Convergence
Center for Policy Resolution*

For Immediate Release

February 22, 2016

Contact: Susan Jerison, (202) 830-2368
sjerison@convergencepolicy.org

Diverse Group of Policy Experts and Stakeholders Proposes Major Long-Term Care Reforms

New Public and Private Initiatives Recommended to Meet Growing Unmet Need

Washington, DC | February 22, 2016 – [The Long-Term Care Financing Collaborative](#) (LTCFC), a diverse group of policy experts and stakeholders from across the political spectrum, is proposing major changes in the way long-term care is financed and delivered in the US. [In its report released today](#), the Collaborative recommends a broad package of reforms aimed at empowering people of all incomes to receive high-quality long-term services and supports.

“Washington conventional wisdom says it is impossible to find a policy solution to the challenges of long-term care financing. The Collaborative showed the conventional wisdom is wrong. People from across the political spectrum with broadly diverse interests did find a workable, consensus resolution to this important problem.”

Howard Gleckman,
The Urban Institute

The Collaborative proposes:

- **Clear private and public roles for long-term care financing.**
- **A new universal catastrophic long-term care insurance program.** This would shift today’s welfare-based system to an insurance model.
- **Redefining Medicaid LTSS** to empower greater autonomy and choice in services and settings.
- **Encouraging private long-term care insurance initiatives** to lower cost and increase enrollment.
- **Increasing retirement savings and improving public education** on long-term care costs and needs.

The Collaborative released its final report today at a [press conference featuring Alice Rivlin](#), Senior Fellow at the Brookings Institution, and members of the Collaborative. Today’s report expands on the Collaborative’s July 2015 recommendations for improving delivery of long-term care. That report proposed steps to better coordinate LTSS and medical care, and strengthen support for the family members and communities that provide most assistance for those with long-term care needs. Copies of the reports are available on the Convergence website at www.convergencepolicy.org/lcfc-final-report/

The Collaborative’s recommendations are based on shared principles, a vision of a better future for those with LTSS needs, and on the best research available.

More than 12 million Americans (both frail older adults and younger people with disabilities) need personal assistance to live independently and with dignity, a number that is expected to double by mid-century. Paid assistance in any setting is expensive and beyond the reach of most families. As a result, family members make enormous physical, emotional, and financial sacrifices to assist parents or other relatives. Profound demographic changes will magnify these burdens in coming years.

For the past 30 years, policymakers attempted to respond to the challenges of financing long-term services and supports, but with little success. [The Long-Term Care Financing Collaborative](#) began meeting in 2012 with the goal of developing widely supportable and actionable recommendations for a public and private insurance-based financing system that empowers all people to receive high quality services and supports.

"It doesn't matter whether your politics are right, left, or center, paying for long-term care for our loved ones is a difficult challenge that nearly all American families are facing or will face in the coming years. This shared challenge, a desire to find real solutions, and a willingness to engage in constructive dialogue is the common ground on which Collaborative members stand."

Jennie Chin Hansen,
Immediate Past CEO,
American Geriatrics Society

Watch the LTCFC Press Conference at: <https://scontent.webcaster4.com/web/LTCollaborative>

Members of the Long-Term Care Financing Collaborative

Gretchen Alkema, The SCAN Foundation+

Robert Blancato, Elder Justice Coalition

Sheila Burke, Harvard Kennedy School; Strategic Advisor, Baker, Donelson, Bearman, Caldwell & Berkowitz

Stuart Butler, The Brookings Institution+

Marc Cohen, LifePlans, Inc.

Susan Coronel, America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP)

John Erickson, Erickson Living

Mike Fogarty, former CEO, Oklahoma Health Care Authority

William Galston, The Brookings Institution+

Howard Gleckman, Urban Institute+

Lee Goldberg, The Pew Charitable Trusts+

Jennie Chin Hansen, immediate past CEO, American Geriatrics Society+

Ron Pollack, Families USA

Don Redfoot, Consultant

John Rother, National Coalition on Healthcare

Nelson Sabatini, The Artemis Group

Dennis G. Smith, Dentons US LLP

Ron Soloway, UJA-Federation of New York (retired)

Richard Teske (1949-2014), Former U.S. Health and Human Services Official

Benjamin Veghte, National Academy of Social Insurance+

Paul Van de Water, Center on Budget & Policy Priorities (CBPP)+

Audrey Weiner, Jewish Home Lifecare, immediate past Chair, LeadingAge

Jonathan Westin, The Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA)

Gail Wilensky, Project HOPE

Caryn Hederman, Project Director, Convergence Center for Policy Resolution

Allen Schmitz, Technical Advisor to the Collaborative, Milliman, Inc.+

+ Collaborative members have joined in their individual capacities with institutional affiliations provided for identification purposes only.



About: The Collaborative is convened by Convergence Center for Policy Resolution, a non-partisan, non-profit organization that brings together people and groups with conflicting views to build trust, identify solutions, and form alliances for action on critical national issues. For more information about Convergence, please visit www.convergencepolicy.org.