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January 20, 2015

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

LeadingAge California Responds to Senate Select Committee on Aging Final Report

Sacramento, CA – Last week, Senator Carol Liu (D-Glendale) released the final report of the Senate Select Committee on Aging and Long-Term Care; a report entitled, "[A Shattered System: Reforming Long-Term Care in California. Envisioning and Implementing an IDEAL Long-Term Care System in California.](#)" The document is the culmination of a series of informational hearings held around the state, where the Committee heard testimony from aging experts across multiple disciplines on the critical issues facing older adults. Among those was Dr. Cheryl Phillips of LeadingAge in Washington, DC who testified on the urgent need for financing options that pick up where public funds do not provide coverage.

Notably, the report emphasizes that work must be done to improve the awareness of costs to seniors and their families for Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS). The report recommends adopting the Bipartisan Policy Center's recommendations and working with the Department of Insurance to pursue state-level discussions on options for California.

"We are strongly encouraged that the Committee has recommended the Department of Insurance's involvement and the formation of a task force," said Joanne Handy, President & CEO of LeadingAge California. "There is a real opportunity to engage in a meaningful discussion about the future cost pressures that will undoubtedly become a huge burden to both families and the state budget if we fail to act."

The report identifies ten "critical policy areas" and numerous recommendations directed at the State Legislature and the Brown Administration. The areas covered include such items as reorganizing state government to consolidate aging-related programs, improved planning to meet the needs of the burgeoning senior population, improving legislative oversight, improving workforce capacity and system integration.

"The report is encouraging on several of our key issues," said Eric Dowdy, Vice President of Policy & Communications. "The attention to examining the need for affordable housing, nurse delegation, reauthorization of the Older Americans Act and establishing oversight of the Coordinated Care Initiative all fall in line with our key priorities."



About LeadingAge California

The representative of the continuum of care and a steward of the nonprofit mission, LeadingAge California remains on the forefront of issues faced by its diverse membership. Our 400+ members deliver housing, care and services to approximately 100,000 older Californians every day. Our membership includes providers of affordable senior housing, skilled nursing, residential and continuing care, as well as home and community-based care.