

Dear Friends,

I apologize for having to ask you again but **River Garden still needs your help** – and we need it **over the next five days**.

Everyone with a stake in River Garden has an interest in helping us defeat the Florida Health Care Association (FHCA) Medicaid Reimbursement Plan. Please don't sit back in the mistaken belief that your voice does not count. Last week I wrote asking you to reach out to members of the Florida Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Health to voice your opposition to the FHCA plan to dismantle the existing Medicaid reimbursement plan for nursing homes and to replace it with one that will move tens of millions of dollars away from patient care to corporate profits. The plan is simply unconscionable.

At our request hundreds of supporters from throughout the state contacted members of the Senate Subcommittee. I testified against the FHCA plan at the Appropriations Subcommittee meeting along with other LeadingAge Florida members. And while the Subcommittee approved the plan the committee chair, Senator Anitere Flores recognized that there was no consensus on the plan from within the provider community and that additional work needed to occur.

The FHCA plan will now be considered by the full Senate Appropriations Committee on Wednesday April 5th. River Garden, along with other LeadingAge providers will be present at the meeting and will again testify against this atrocious plan. And so I ask you to help us by reaching out to members of the full Senate Appropriations Committee. When you call the Senators office please let them know that you are opposed to the FHCA PPS Plan for nursing homes. Please tell the Senators **“This plan DOES NOT have consensus among nursing home providers and would negatively impact quality nursing homes across the State of Florida.”**

River Garden's concern with the FHCA plan include:

1. The plan depends upon additional funding of \$57 million over each of the next three years, none of which is guaranteed
2. The plan shifts \$44 million in funding that would be spent on care to instead be spent on property and profits
3. The plan lacks any requirement that providers who receive new money under the plan spend the new dollars on care
4. The plan is geographically unfair and sends a disproportionate amount of funding to four South Florida Counties
5. Even with the additional funding there are 152 nursing homes with 4 or 5 star ratings that will lose funding under the FHCA plan, including River Garden. River Garden will lose almost \$200,000 under the FHCA plan.
6. The House Health Care Appropriations Subcommittee has already rejected an earlier Medicaid Reimbursement Plan previously submitted by Navigant; and the FHCA plan is built upon the carcass of the failed Navigant plan.

Directly below is contact information on members of the Senate Appropriations Committee and at the very end a link to an Article of Interest that appeared in the press following the recent Senate Appropriations Subcommittee meeting during which I testified.

Please let me know if you have any questions. Thank you again for helping us.

Marty

Martin A. Goetz, MS, MPA
Chief Executive Officer
River Garden Senior Services
11401 Old Saint Augustine Road
Jacksonville, Florida 32258
(904) 886-8409 direct
(904) 260-9733 fax
mgoetz@rivergarden.org
www.rivergarden.org



This communication, including any attachments is for the sole intent of the recipients and may contain confidential and privileged information. Any unauthorized forwarding, printing, copying, disclosure or distribution is strictly prohibited without the expressed written consent of the River Garden Health System. If you feel you have received this communication in error please contact the sender immediately and destroy all copies of this message.



Josh Ashby, Chairman | Steve Bahmer, President/CEO
1812 Riggins Rd | Tallahassee, FL 32308 | P: (850) 671-3700 | F: (850) 671-3790

Dear LeadingAge Florida Members,

Thank you for all the calls and emails that you sent into the Senate Health & Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee in opposition to the Florida Health Care Association's prospective payment system plan. Your outreach truly made a difference in showing that there is not a consensus that supports this plan that would only hurt Florida's seniors.

But, we still need your help, as the plan is now a part of the budget adopted by the Senate Health & Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee. While our ask of you is the same – call and email legislators – our targets have changed.

Our message is simple: **This plan DOES NOT have consensus among nursing home providers and would negatively impact quality nursing homes across the State of Florida.**

Below, please find all the contact information that you need to call and/or email these targets, helpful talking points on this issue, and an article written about the actions taken by the Senate Health & Human Services Appropriations Subcommittee.

Thank you in advance for being a vocal opponent on this issue.

Senate Appropriations

Senator Jack Latvala
(850) 487-5016
latvala.jack.web@flsenate.gov

Senator Anitere Flores
(850) 487-5039
flores.anitere.web@flsenate.gov

Senator Aaron Bean
(850) 487-5004
bean.aaron.web@flsenate.gov

Senator Lizbeth Benacquisto
(850) 487-5027
benacquisto.lizbeth.web@flsenate.gov

Senator Lauren Frances Book
(850) 487-5032
book.lauren.web@flsenate.gov

Senator Randolph Bracy
(850) 487-5011
bracy.randolph.web@flsenate.gov

Senator Rob Bradley
(850) 487-5005
bradley.rob.web@flsenate.gov

Senator Jeff Brandes
(850) 487-5024
brandes.jeff.web@flsenate.gov

Senator Oscar Braynon II
(850) 487-5035
braynon.oscar.web@flsenate.gov

Senator George B. Gainer
(850) 487-5002
gainer.george.web@flsenate.gov

Senator Bill Galvano
(850) 487-5021
galvano.bill.web@flsenate.gov

Senator Audrey Gibson
(850) 487-5006
gibson.audrey.web@flsenate.gov

Senator Denise Grimsley
(850) 487-5026
grimsley.denise.web@flsenate.gov

Senator Bill Montford
(850) 487-5003
montford.bill.web@flsenate.gov

Senator Bobby Powell
(850) 487-5030
powell.bobby.web@flsenate.gov

Senator David Simmons
(850) 487-5009
simmons.david.web@flsenate.gov

Senator Wilton Simpson
(850) 487-5010
simpson.wilton.web@flsenate.gov

Senator Kelli Stargel
(850) 487-5022
stargel.kelli.web@flsenate.gov

Article of Interest

[Florida Politics: Universal support for changes to nursing home payments? Not so fast ...](#)

We will continue to fight this – and we truly appreciate your help.

Susan Langston is the Vice President of Advocacy of LeadingAge Florida, a nonprofit statewide association representing the full continuum of care for seniors with members ranging from nursing homes to assisted living facilities to continuing care retirement communities.