

# Seniors Deserve to Stay at Home

## Permit Presumptive Eligibility



### ISSUE

It is no surprise that home is where everyone wants to be. Even government officials agree that home-based care is a win-win for the state budget and individuals who need long-term services and supports.

Yet, the door to in-home care is still closed to some seniors and adults with disabilities due to stringent and outdated Medicaid rules that make it easier to go into a nursing home than to stay at home.

For individuals entering a nursing home, county assistance offices can quickly look at their financial information, determine that they are presumptively eligible and allow them to begin receiving care while the remainder of

the paperwork is processed. This expedited process is not available to those who wish to stay at home. To receive care at home, financial eligibility takes nearly six months before care can be delivered. Why is the more expensive care easier to access? Because back in the 1960s when Medicaid was established, nursing homes were the only option for care.

As Pennsylvania faces a growing elderly population and severe budget shortages, outdated Medicaid rules continue to favor more expensive care in a nursing home rather than staying in one's own home.



### ACTION

Support legislation that would update our Medicaid rules to allow presumptive eligibility for home-based care so that more people can choose to receive care at home. Write to Health Committee Chair Matt Baker (*see letter on reverse side*) to show your support!



## **SAMPLE LETTER**

Dear Chairman Baker,

Thank you for advocating for seniors and adults with disabilities who want to receive care and support at home. I am very interested in supporting your future legislation, which would permit presumptive eligibility for Medicaid home-based care - something that is now only permitted for someone entering a nursing home.

If we are to control rising costs for senior care in the Commonwealth, we must take steps to encourage cost-effective services while preserving an individual's independence and dignity. Home-based care does just that!

You can count on my support!

Sincerely,