

## **PLEASE SUPPORT HB 17-1264**

(Reps. Ginal & Lawrence/Sens. Martinez Humenik & Jahn)

### **ADD LOCAL OMBUDSMAN TO PACE OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM**

#### Background

This bill is a follow up to SB 16-199 (sponsored by Sens. Scott and Steadman and Reps. Ginal and Del Grosso) enacted during the 2016 legislative session. The bill required the establishment of an Ombudsman Program for participants of Programs of All-inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) beginning in FY 2016-17. The law also required the Colorado Department of Human Services to establish a stakeholder group to recommend legislation for the 2017 legislative session to establish a comprehensive statewide PACE Ombudsman Program that includes local PACE ombudsman.

The stakeholder group included representatives from state agencies, PACE organizations, community advocates, the State Long Term Care (LTC) Ombudsman, and local LTC Ombudsmen. Several organizations representing the interests of elderly and disabled adults participated in the stakeholder process.

The stakeholder group met from July to September 2016. It conducted research on other states' PACE Ombudsman Programs, heard presentations on the Colorado LTC and Medicare/Medicaid Ombudsman programs, and held brainstorming sessions. The group's recommendations were issued on November 1.

#### What HB 17-1264 Does

1. establishes a local PACE Ombudsman Program in the current PACE service areas beginning in FY 2017-18;
2. directs the the State PACE Ombudsman to establish statewide policies and procedures and provide training for local PACE ombudsmen;
3. authorizes designated local PACE Ombudsmen to access PACE centers and participants and resolve complaints on behalf of PACE participants;
4. requires the State Department to report to the state legislature concerning the ombudsman program, including caseloads and any need for additional local ombudsman.

#### Funding

SB 16-199 provided funding for a State PACE Ombudsman for five years through a grant from the NextFifty Foundation. Additional funding will be required to implement the PACE Ombudsman Program at the local level and to fund the State PACE Ombudsman beyond five years.

## **Organizations Supporting HB 17-1264**

(as of March 24, 2017)

### **Disability Law Colorado**

(operates State Long Term Care Ombudsman and State PACE Ombudsman programs)

### **Denver Regional Council of Governments**

(operates local Long Term Care Ombudsman program for Adams, Arapahoe, Broomfield, Clear Creek, Denver, Douglas, Gilpin and Jefferson counties)

### **AARP Colorado**

### **Region 10**

(operates Long Term Care Ombudsman program for Delta, Gunnison, Hinsdale, Montrose, Ouray and San Miguel counties)

### **Colorado Cross Disability Coalition**

### **Colorado Center on Law and Policy**

### **Boulder County**

(operates local Long Term Care Ombudsman program)