



## Seattle Care Council Caring Across Generations

CARING ACROSS  
GENERATIONS

### Caring Across Generations: It's time to talk about our future.

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**We're in a race to provide quality care for our nation's aging population.** Every eight seconds, someone in America turns 65—by 2050, more than 27 million Americans are expected to need long-term care services and support. In Seattle, 3,792 individuals currently receive home care support through DSHS. With 10.3% of the Seattle population 65 or older and 12.1% of Seattle residents between the ages of 55 and 65, the amount of people needing home care will only increase in future years. We are facing a national crisis. How do we ensure a dignified quality of life for older adults and people with disabilities?

With increasing demand for care services, **home health care workers are a vital part of the care crisis solution.** But they often serve under exploitative conditions and lack access to appropriate training, career advancement, and pathways to citizenship, putting quality care at risk.

Caring across generations is working to **create millions of new jobs in home care, and to ensure care jobs are quality jobs**- so that we can feel more confident knowing that our loved ones will receive the care they deserve. By building a trained, professional home care workforce, we can help solve the care crisis

Caring Across Generations brings together millions of care workers, people with disabilities, older adults and their families with the goal of improving the quality and accessibility of care for everyone. **We all have a stake transforming care.**

### Building Locally: The Seattle Care Council

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In Washington State, the Caring Across Generations local coalition is led by 23 organizations, representing community, domestic workers, care givers, immigrant rights advocates, labor, seniors, and the disability community. **Our Seattle Care Council is seen as a model for the growing movement of local coalitions forming across the country.** The Seattle Care Congress, a town-hall style event held on February 11<sup>th</sup> at the Greenwood Senior Center, attracted over 200 attendees from different sides of the care crisis, a diversity of background and ages. Similar events will be taking place in at least 14 other U.S. cities over the next 12 months.

Locally, the first step is to pass a Seattle city council resolution in support of the values of the campaign. If passed, **Seattle would be the first city in the country to pass local legislation around the issue.** We will also be engaging seniors and community members around the 2012 elections to vote based on our values of caring across generations, protecting essential programs including Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid, and protecting immigrant and worker rights. We want to see Washington state leading the way in supporting the Care Act.

## Five Pillars of the Care Act

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In recognition of the many interconnected experiences of the "care crisis," Caring Across Generations is proposing a bold federal legislation with five interdependent components:

### 1. Create jobs

- Create 2 million new jobs in home care
- Explore fair ways to pay for job creation through measures like higher tax contributions from corporations and the wealthy

### 2. Transform the quality of current jobs and anticipated new jobs

- Establish stronger labor standards and improve job quality
- Create a right to organize and path to unionization for direct care and domestic workers
- Ensure that improving job quality does not jeopardize access for low-income recipients of care by providing concurrent financial support and creative funding streams

### 3. Provide training for workers and build career ladders

- Build a career ladder and improved job training and certification programs to raise the quality of care and prepare workers for long-term quality jobs

### 4. Provide a path to citizenship

- Create a new visa category to create a path to citizenship for participants in the training and certification program

### 5. Support individuals and families

- Expand and improve Medicare, Medicaid and other federal programs to better meet the needs of seniors, people with disabilities, and families
- Provide multiple financial supports, including a tax credit, to support families paying "out of pocket" for care
- Provide training and other supports to find, hire and manage care, and to foster positive and open communication
- Provide support to family caregivers who are taking time from employment with social security credits and paid family leave

## The Seattle Care Council Organizations and Endorsements

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Alliance for a Just Society, Arc of King County, CASA Latina, Chaya & API Safety Center, Chinese Information Service Center, Coalition of Anti-Racist Whites, Economic Opportunity Institute, El Centro de la Raza, Faith Action Network, Filipino Community Center of Seattle, LGBTQ Allyship, Minority Executive Directors Coalition of King County, One America, Philippine US Solidarity Organization (PUSO), Pinay Sa Seattle, Puget Sound Alliance for Retired Americans, Puget Sound Old Lesbians Organizing for Change, *Seattle Human Rights Commission*, *Seattle Immigrant and Refugee Advisory Board*, *Seattle-King County Advisory Council for Aging & Disability Services*, *Seattle Women's Commission*, SEIU 775 NW, Senior Services, Teens For Change- Creating the Future, The Phinney Neighborhood Association/Greenwood Senior Center, United Students Against Sweatshops- University of Washington Chapter, Washington Community Action Network, Washington State Labor Council, AFL-CIO, Washington State Senior Citizen Lobby

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