



News Release

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE
Oct. 4, 2011**

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COMMONWEALTH COUNCIL ON AGING URGES COORDINATED PREPARATION FOR COMING AGE WAVE

(RICHMOND, Va.) — As Virginia faces an unprecedented “age wave,” the Commonwealth needs to address concerns and issues relating to caregiving, independence and well-being, according to a new report from the Commonwealth Council on Aging.

The number of Virginians older than age 60 will increase from 1.4 million (17.8 percent of the population) in 2010 to 2.3 million (23.9 percent) in 2030, according to projections by the Virginia Employment Commission. This “age wave” demographic shift, along with challenging economic times, makes a coordinated effort by state and local agencies even more vital.

“The demographics of Virginia’s population have changed and will continue to change even more dramatically. The Council promotes an efficient, coordinated approach by state government towards meeting the needs of older Virginians and their families,” said Council Chair Roberto Quiñones. “This report highlights our recommendations to support their independence and well-being as we all prepare to become part of the age wave.”

“Our Commonwealth Council on Aging continues to serve as a strong and focused advocate. Their recommendations would improve our ability to support older Virginians throughout the Commonwealth,” said Jim Rothrock, Interim Commissioner of the Virginia Department for the Aging, an ex officio member of the Council.

The Council’s report, presented to Gov. Bob McDonnell and the Virginia General Assembly, recommends that Virginia:

- Encourage local and regional planning for livable communities, which support opportunities for all Virginians to carry out their lives when, where and how they choose, by raising awareness of the [Blueprint for Livable Communities Citizen Advisory Group](#), which highlights best practices in housing, transportation and community-based supports.
- Protect funding for core services provided by the Virginia Department for the Aging and the Commonwealth's network of Area Agencies on Aging, Department of Social Services' Adult Services and Adult Protective Services, Centers for Independent Living and Medicaid. These services provide assistance for Virginia's most vulnerable adults and enhance opportunities for home and community-based living.
- Expand funding for "[No Wrong Door](#)," a public/private partnership that facilitates collaboration between service providers, identification of support options and automation of Medicaid eligibility and other key processes.

"No Wrong Door" has proven to be an essential element in attracting not only federal funds but new partners in our Commonwealth's initiative to make services more effective for older Virginians," said Commissioner Rothrock.

The Council, in collaboration with the VDA and the Commonwealth's 25 local Area Agencies on Aging, forms a network that supports older Virginians and their caregivers. This year, a series of listening sessions called "Community Conversations on Aging" were held statewide and the findings were used to develop the new report's policy recommendations.

For more on the Blueprint for Livable Communities, visit www.vadrs.org/vblc/. For more about "No Wrong Door," go to www.vda.virginia.gov.

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