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CONTACT: William Phillips, The Generations Project
wphillips@generationsproject.org; Phone 317-423-7108

UAW retirees to focus on addressing Indiana's long term care crisis

Kokomo – Retired UAW members will gather at 6:00 p.m., Jan. 8 at UAW Local 685 to conduct chapter business and learn about what can be done to address Indiana's growing long-term health care crisis.

"Young or old, anybody could be put in a position where they require long term health care," said Larry Scott, Local 685 retiree chairman. "Indiana has thousands of people on waiting lists to receive that care in their homes and in their community. Why can't these people get the care that they need? What can be done to change this? We'll have Will Phillips from The Generations Project here on Thursday to talk about the things that Indiana can be doing to solve its long term care crisis," Scott added.

Something must be done, according to Will Phillips, Program Associate for The Generations Project, Indianapolis. "An outdated formula for providing long term care to Hoosiers, coupled with an aging population, has left Indiana facing serious problems in caring for its citizens," Phillips said. Indiana's approach--a business as usual approach to long term care--will only continue to provide the usual results for consumers and taxpayers; a system of care that is the most expensive and the least desirable."

Phillips' visit will be the first of many visits to communities across the state on behalf of The Generations Project, an Indianapolis based coalition of advocacy groups. "Made up of organizations including AARP, the Citizens Action Coalition of Indiana, and the Indiana State Council of Senior Citizens, The Generation Project hopes to alert Hoosiers to the fact that home and community-based care is not just the preferred care—but also the cheapest care for taxpayers. Most importantly, we hope that folks around the state will demand change," said Phillips.

For more information regarding The Generations Project and long-term care issues, contact Will Phillips by email at wphillips@generationsproject.org or by phone at 317-423-7108. Kokomo residents can also contact the UAW retirees at 765-459-3133 or Elmer Blankenship, president of the Indiana State Council of Senior Citizens in Indianapolis at 317-547-0614.

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