



Rebalancing Indiana's Long Term Care System with Senate Enrolled Act 493: Intent and Implementation of SEA 493

For years Indiana's taxpayer-funded system of long term care has placed thousands of Hoosiers in nursing homes and other types of institutions when most prefer to receive services at home. In the spring of 2003 the Indiana General Assembly passed a law that will change this. The law is Senate Enrolled Act 493. (Public Law 274-2003)

Why is SEA 493 important?

- Indiana spends 84% of its total long term care budget on care in institutions, the most expensive and least wanted form of care.
- Institutional care is about five times more expensive than home and community based alternatives.
- Indiana's long term care system has not provided the care people want and has used taxpayer dollars inefficiently.
- People want to receive services at home where they can remain independent and retain as much control over their lives as possible

What is the purpose of SEA 493?

SEA 493 seeks to re-balance this system by removing barriers to home and community based care, creating a full array of home and community based services, and establishing the funding and resources necessary to move Indiana toward a more balanced long term care system.

How does SEA 493 rebalance Indiana's long term care system?

SEA 493 removes barriers to home and community-based care

- Raises income eligibility standards for Medicaid waivers so more Hoosiers can choose home and community based care options that are right for them and their families.
- Protects people from becoming impoverished just because their spouse uses home care.
- Allows Medicaid dollars to follow the client from nursing homes to home care.

SEA 493 creates options for care

- Mandates that the state provide access to a full array of home and community based services including assisted living, adult foster care, adult day services, self-directed care, and any other services that are necessary to maintain an individual in a home and community based setting.
- Establishes a caretaker support program
- Requires Medicaid to be amended so that services available are as complete as those currently provided by Indiana's CHOICE program, a nationally recognized model for providing home and community based care.

SEA 493 establishes the funding and resources necessary to provide appropriate care

- Requires the state to expand its Medicaid waiver program and provide more openings for individuals seeking home and community based care.
- Requires the state to track savings realized through the increased use of home and community based care.
- Savings generated by increased utilization of home and community based care may be used to fund additional home and community based services.

What are the challenges to implementing SEA 493?

Through SEA 493, Indiana now has the tools to change the system. The only thing standing in the way of Hoosiers and a re-balanced long term health care system is the **will** to implement SEA 493. *When SEA 493 was enacted, engaged and vocal citizens provided elected officials with the will to pass the legislation.*

If you are concerned about the implementation of SEA 493, the availability of home care, or any long term care issues, contact your state legislators or the governor.

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For more information, call John Cardwell at (317) 423.7102 or Will Phillips at (317) 423.7108. Write The Generations Project, c/o AARP, Suite 1275, One North Capitol Avenue, Indianapolis, IN, 46204. You may also contact the Citizens Action Coalition Education Fund at 5420 N. College Ave., Room 100, Indianapolis, IN 46220. The Generations Project is an alliance of AARP Indiana, ARC of Indiana, Alzheimer's Association, CICOA Aging & In-Home Solutions, Citizens Action Coalition of Indiana, Council of Volunteers and Organizations for Hoosiers with Disabilities (COVOH), Indiana Alliance for Retired Americans, Indiana Association of Area Agencies on Aging, Mental Health Association of Indiana and United Senior Action of Indiana.

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