

## 2018 NVAN Priorities

### LEGISLATIVE

- **Designate the third full week of September each year as “Fall Prevention Awareness Week,”** to raise public understanding of this significant community health issue.
- **Expand access for use of medical marijuana for treatment of certain conditions** or alleviation of symptoms of specified diseases, with a valid prescription.

### BUDGET

- **Appropriate \$440,000 to improve access to services and supports for older adults, individuals with disabilities, caregivers, veterans and families** by bringing the local Adult Protective Services and Adult Services programs into the No Wrong Door Virginia network.
  - **Appropriate \$235,204 (10% of full funding needed) toward bringing the state’s Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program up to the state and national standard** of one full-time ombudsman for every 2,000 nursing home and assisted living beds.
  - **Mandate minimum nursing home staffing requirements** adjusted for resident acuity in all licensed nursing home facilities and increase the Medicaid nursing home reimbursement rate to account for the mandate.
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- In addition to its General Assembly priorities, NVAN supports the completion of an **in-depth study on family caregiving in Virginia** (including public policy recommendations) directed by the Department for Aging and Rehabilitative Services.

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### CONTINUING CONCERNS

- **Provide living wages, paid sick days, overtime pay, and training for long-term care workers** to build a quality, cost-effective workforce.
- **Fund home and community-based services** through Area Agencies on Aging and Center for Independent Living.
- **Expand the Northern Virginia RAFT (Regional Older Adult Facilities Mental Health Team) education program**, which provides consultation and training for facility and hospital staff in caring for residents with serious mental illness and/or dementia with difficult behaviors.
- **Improve dental care for older Virginians** through education, enhancing services in long-term care and through community clinics, and providing services for adult Medicaid beneficiaries.
- **Require the Virginia Board of Medicine to mandate geriatric training** for all medical students attending Virginia state medical universities in core clinical concentrations in Family Medicine or Internal Medicine.
- **Expand Medicaid to provide healthcare to up to 400,000 Virginians** (including 62,000 older adults), create 30,000 jobs, and keep our federal tax dollars in the Commonwealth.

### ABOUT NVAN

NVAN includes the Commissions on Aging and Area Agencies on Aging of Alexandria, Arlington, Fairfax, Loudoun, and Prince William, as well as regional service and advocacy organizations.

#### Contact NVAN

Northern Virginia Regional Commission,  
703-642-0700, [www.Novaregion.org](http://www.Novaregion.org)

Or to request this information in an alternate format, call 703-324-5403 or TTY 703-449-1186.