# Aging & Long Term Care Reform Options for Long Term Care Financing Jedd Hampton, LeadingAge California

## Who needs Long Term Care (LTC)?

- Among persons age 65 and over, an estimated 70 percent will use Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS)
- 85% of LTSS needs last less than three years, BUT:
  - persons age 85 and over the fastest growing segment of the U.S. population – are four times more likely to need LTSS than persons age 65 to 84
  - 20% of California's population will be 65 years or older by 2030
  - 15% of seniors over the age of 65 will incur LTSS expenses over \$250,000
  - Almost 1 in 5 women over age 65 will have LTSS expenses over \$250,000

## Why do we need LTC Financing?

- Approximately 6 million Californians today have no workplace pension or retirement savings program, e.g., 401Ks
- A large majority (64%) of workers without access to a workplace retirement plan are people of color, with Latinos making up the largest share (46%)
- Nearly half (47%) of California workers—public and private—are projected to retire with incomes below 200% of federal poverty level (about \$22,000 a year)
  - Particularly true for California small business operators and independent contractors
- For those with retirement savings:
  - tax penalties for withdrawing savings before the age of 59, and
  - withdrawals at any age taxed as ordinary income even if used for LTSS

## What's happening?

### **Current long-term care insurance market (LTCi):**

- across-the-board premium hikes on both prospective and retrospective business
- tightened underwriting practices
- reduction in consumer demand
- 90% of insurance companies that once offered LTCi on a national basis no longer do so
- Trend towards:
  - high-end niche products
  - few or no insurance options for middle-income

## **Developing options:** Community Conversations

- Three facilitated sessions hosted by LeadingAge, AARP and the Alzheimer's Association, with other A & LTC stakeholders and policy analysts
- Six possible approaches examined
- Smaller stakeholder group looking in to:
  - Finalizing concepts with consumer, stakeholder, and provider feedback
  - Addressing regulatory issues (state and federal)
  - Addressing political feasibility issues
  - Refining proposal(s)
  - Legislative solutions?

**#1.** Private options: front-end, intermediate and catastrophic coverage

### • Goals

- Affordable and suitable for middle-income consumers
- Streamlined but meaningful benefits
- Simple to understand
- Acceptable risk for carriers

### Front-end plan:

- would help consumers through the first years of LTC
- pay for home and community-based services
- include care coordination benefit

**#1.** Private options: front-end, intermediate and catastrophic coverage (cont'd.)

#### Intermediate coverage:

- simplified plans with daily or monthly benefits and duration to cover the most typical LTCi claims
- provide approximately \$250,000 to cover LTSS expenses

#### • Catastrophic coverage:

- for people who anticipate needing care for several years, e.g. Alzheimer's and ALS
- includes a wait period of at least two years

## **#2.** Transforming Life Insurance into LTCi

#### **Premise:**

- Incorporating LTC benefits into life insurance or annuity products increasingly popular in LTCi market.
- Addresses consumer question and barrier to long-term care insurance purchase -- what happens to my premiums if I don't need long-term care?

## **#2.** Transformative Protection (cont'd)

#### Concept:

- provides a *term life insurance benefit* during working ages, when middle-income consumers need it most
- upon retirement, CHANGES to provide a LTC insurance benefit
- same premium and for the same level of coverage (actuarial analysis suggests \$100,000 benefit, for a 50 year-old male, as low as \$50 per month)
- Periodic future opportunities to increase benefit (for additional cost)

# #3. Add an LTSS benefit to Medicare supplement

### Background:

- Many consumers retire w/o adequate resources to pay for LTC
- Medicare coverage provides limited LTSS benefits
- Medicare supplement or Medicare Advantage programs provide <u>no</u> LTSS benefits
- Current LTSS options
  - pay out of pocket
  - limited private long-term care insurance
  - divest assets to qualify for the California Medicaid program

# #3. Add an LTSS benefit to Medicare supplement (Cont'd.)

### LTSS Benefit would:

- add a modest home & community care benefit to all California Med Supplement and Medicare Advantage plans
- incorporate benefit into the consumer paid med-supplement premiums to help beneficiaries fund a portion of LTSS services
  - benefit of \$75- \$100,000 with modest daily or monthly cap
- include a care coordination benefit to help consumers identify and manage services
  - focus on services and technologies that provide high quality care at home as long as possible

# #3. Add an LTSS benefit to Medicare supplement (Cont'd.)

### Advantages:

- Medicare is universally known, widely accepted, and popular among 65+
- Take up of Medicare supplement products is substantial (unlike LTCi)
- Turning age 65 triggers thinking about their future care
- Research has indicated that consumers already believe Medicare covers LTSS

# #4. Public Front end or public comprehensive insurance program

#### Background:

- CLASS Act was originally part of the Affordable Care Act (ACA), but
- Plan was deemed not actuarially sound and eliminated from ACA
- With failure in private product market, interest in public approach remains
- A key learning from the CLASS experience -- strictly voluntary program not financially viable

# #4. Public Front end or public comprehensive insurance program (Cont'd.)

- Alternative Concepts
  - 1. California specific public insurance:
    - a front-end program to supplement consumer resources through the first 1-2 years of LTC
      - home and community-based services
      - care coordination benefit
  - 2. A comprehensive plan that incorporates front-end, intermediate and catastrophic coverage (benefits similar to Approach #1)
- Either plan financed through a combination of payroll deduction and income supports for those who can't afford payroll premiums
- Sponsored & managed by public California resources with private carriers roles as with Medicare and Medicare Advantage likely

# #5. Statewide savings program/favorable treatment for LTSS financing

- For workers <u>without</u> defined contribution plan:
  - Savings up to specified amount e.g., \$100K
  - After that level is reached, a portion of savings could be withdrawn on a tax favored basis to pay for LTSS protection vehicles, e.g., LTC insurance
- For workers <u>with</u> a defined contribution plan:
  - California proactively lobbies for changes to federal tax and ERISA regulations to –
    - eliminate early withdrawal penalties
    - enable tax free withdrawals to LTSS, including long-term care insurance

## #6. A California plan to fund catastrophic long-term care claims

- State or regional funding to share costs of high cost, catastrophic, long duration claims would include:
  - a high deductible product approach coupled with a state or regional re-insurance facility, and
  - proactive care management approaches for catastrophic claims

## What else is needed? A Central Resource for LTSS Education and Awareness

## Why?

- Over half of all Californians will need long-term care after age 65
- Consumers typically do not understand
  - Potential need for LTSS
  - LTSS options
  - retirement financial issues
- Mistaken belief that Medicare or private health insurance will pay for LTSS
- Fewer than 20% of baby boomers have taken action to prepare for LTSS, compared to more than 80% who have prepared for their death
- 8 in 10 baby boomers don't know how much a home health aide or a nursing home costs

## **California LTSS Help Center**

- Objective, timely and credible information
- Website with interactive decision-support tools
- telephone support to help consumers learn about, plan for and prepare for potential LTSS needs
- Information and tools related to full range of insurance and financial options and service provider choices including:
  - Health and wellness programs and employer supports and assistance
  - Government programs including Medicare and Medical Assistance
  - Savings and investment options
  - Long-term care insurance -- life, health and other insurance options
  - Reverse mortgage and other home equity products
  - Caregiving services and supports including HCBS, assisted living, and skilled nursing facilities