



What Has FLiCRA Done For Residents in Continuing Care Retirement Communities?

Public Policy Issues (1989-2008)

***SUPPORTED** identifies successes on issues where FLiCRA worked with other organizations. **SECURED** identifies successes on issues where FLiCRA was the lead organization in the passage of legislation that is now law.*

Cost Saving Measures

- **Supported** defeat of proposal by the Department of Revenue to charge sales tax on resident meals. The proposal was to charge the tax retroactively for a five year period.
- **Supported** defeat of Bell South proposal to put a charge on local telephone calls. (1992)
- **Supported** the defeat of a proposed tax of \$10.00 per day per nursing bed in CCRCs.
- **Secured** “homestead exemption” benefits for residents of for-profit and previously nonbenefiting not-for-profit CCRCs.
- **Supported** clarification to “homes for the aged” homestead exemption law to strengthen and protect exemption for nonprofit homes for the aged.
- **Supported** legislation to establish a statewide program where elderly citizens at or below 120% of the poverty level are eligible to receive prescription drugs at the cost of Medicaid levels instead of Medicare levels.
- **Supported** maintaining current sales tax exemptions for CCRC entrance fees, monthly maintenance fees, resident meals and homestead provisions

Continuing Care

- **Secured** protection of residents of accredited CCRCs against waivers of requirements of Chapter 651. (F.S. 651.028)
- **Secured** inclusion of “Bill of Rights” for residents of CCRCs. (F.S. 651.083)
- **Secured** provision that when maintenance fees exceed the Consumer Price Index (CPI) owner/providers must provide detailed explanation to residents. (F.S. 651.085)
- **Secured** procedure for residents to elect a designated representative to represent them at meetings of the governing body at which changes in residents' fees or services are discussed. (F.S. 651.085)
- **Supported** “full disclosure” of providers’ financial reports. (F.S. 651.091)
- **Supported** financial assistance to residents of CCRCs closed due to liquidation or pending liquidation. (F.S. 651.119)
- **Secured** increased representation of residents from 2 to 3 members on the CCRC Advisory Council. (F.S. 651.121)
- **Secured** transfer of property insurance premiums from the debt service reserve to the operating reserve softening the impact of high property insurance premiums and their cost impact

- **Supported** increasing investigative powers of the Governor’s Continuing Care Advisory Council. (F.S. 651.121)
- **Secured** mediation/arbitration procedures for disputes between CCRC residents and owner/providers on grievances except for disputes related to increases in monthly maintenance fees (F.S. 651.123)
- **Supported** passage of major revision to F.S. 651 in 1997, which included over a dozen changes to the statute.
- **Supported** legislation to allow retirement communities to conduct bingo games at their facilities.
- **Supported** change to minimum liquid reserve requirements to minimize impact of liability and property insurance premiums on residents. (F.S. 651.035)
- **Supported** that CCRC residents are not considered new admissions when a moratorium on new admissions is in place in the skilled nursing portion of a CCRC. (F.S. 651.118)
- **Secured** clarification of the appropriate process that residents must take to elect an initial residents council and elect their designated representative before management. (F.S. 651.081 and 651.085)

Nursing & Health Center Regulations

- **Supported** right of CCRC residents holding Health Maintenance Organization (HMO) agreements to be referred back to their facility’s nursing center for medical services by their primary care physician. *Statutes updated in 2007.*
- **Supported** right of CCRCs to a Certificate of Need exemption so providers can establish home health agencies at their facilities.
- **Supported** right of CCRCs in financial need to utilize vacant sheltered nursing beds beyond five years for use by noncommunity residents to generate revenue.
- **Supported** changes to assisted living regulations which allow a resident to self-administer medication.
- **Supported** legislation requiring background checks on prospective employees in nursing facilities.
- **Secured** right of residents with private or public sector retirement plans that cover prescription drugs that they can use those drug benefits in the nursing center portion of the community not just while in independent living.
- **Secured** a seat for a FLiCRA representative on the Panel on Excellence in Long Term Care.
- **Supported** increased funding for Long Term Care Ombudsmen program for nursing home residents.
- **Secured** a seat for a FLiCRA representative on the End of Life Care Workgroup.
- **Supported** creation of Florida State University Medical School where students will specialize in geriatric medicine.
- **Supported** nursing home reform including changes to litigation reform, quality of care and regulatory enforcement. (Senate Bill 1202)
- **Secured** that nursing homes affiliated with a CCRC that are accredited meet the financial criteria requirements for applying for a Gold Seal designation.
- **Secured** CCRC nursing homes that staff at or above the required ratios, can utilize licensed nurses and certified nursing assistants elsewhere on campus.

“A resident-led association to ensure quality of life in retirement communities”
For more information, call the FLiCRA Office at (850) 906-9314 or visit www.flicra.com.