Retooling the Health Care Workforce for an Aging America Act Of 2009

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CHALLENGES

- Demographic shift of US population
  - 2008 about 12% of the US population is over 65
  - It will double to 70 million by the year 2030
  - Fastest growing group (85 and over)

- Shortage of trained health care providers
  - Total of 7,500 geriatricians in 2008
  - Current need of 22,000 geriatricians
  - Future need 36,000 geriatricians by 2030
Overview: Retooling The Health Care Workforce For An Aging America Act Of 2009

• Amends
  – Title VII of the Public Health Service Act
    • Increasing funding for Geriatric Education Centers
  – VIII of the Public Health Service Act
    • Expand nursing geriatric education programs
  – Older American Act
    • Establish a National Resource Center to develop partnerships between aging service networks and providers for low income senior citizens
  – Social Security Act
    • Create demonstration projects in four states to develop competency standards for training home care aids
PROPONENTS

• AARP
• AMA
• American Geriatric Society
• American Association Geriatric Psychiatry
• Family Caregiver Alliance
• American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging
PROPONENT VIEW

• These challenges require federal action
• Increase training will lead to increase access to care for the elderly
• Specialized training in geriatrics will lead to better quality of care for the elderly
• Specialized training in geriatrics will lead to overall lower health care cost
OPPONENT VIEW

• Free market forces should determine the models of care
• This approach will lead to the best quality for the optimal price
• More need will drive more supply thus increasing access to care
• Programs already exist
RECOMMENDATION-SUPPORT

• Improve access
  – Increases training opportunities for physicians, residents, nursing and medical assistance
  – It builds on already existing programs to begin the training process
  – This maximizes resources and provides a quick increase in the number of providers for the elderly

• This increase in providers will result in an increase in access.
RECOMMENDATION-SUPPORT

• Increase quality
  – Provides education to the health care workforce in the areas that are unique to the elderly population
  – The health care workforce will be more knowledgeable in geriatric medicine, such as prevention and chronic disease management

• This will translate to improved quality of health care
RECOMMENDATION-SUPPORT

• Lower cost
  – Provides the health care providers with appropriate and inappropriate utilization of health care resources.
  – The optimal time to perform test, proper medications management, safety issues are examples of direct cost savings to the health care delivery system.

• This will translate to lower cost and improved quality
CONCLUSION

• The demographic shift is towards the elderly
• There is a shortage in the health care workforce for the elderly
• This challenge requires federal action
• The Retooling The Health Care Workforce For An Aging America Act Of 2009 improves access to better quality lower cost healthcare