

# Washington State Senior Citizens' Foundation

2021 Conference

Cathy MacCaul, Advocacy Director

# Washington is ranked #2 in LTSS

- The 2020 Scorecard ranks states based on five LTSS categories:
  - Affordability and access
  - Choice of setting and provider
  - Quality of life and quality of care
  - Support for family caregivers
  - Transitions between nursing homes, hospitals and homes
- High-performing LTSS systems help seniors:
  - Easily find and afford needed services
  - Have choices in both services and providers
  - Have access to quality care to help maintain their quality of life
  - Avoid unnecessary hospitalization and nursing home stays
  - Receive help from family caregivers, who are supported

To view the full report, go to  
[www.longtermscorecard.org](http://www.longtermscorecard.org).




# AARP Federal Focus

- Allowing Medicare to negotiate for lower drug prices
- Expanding Medicare to include dental, hearing, and vision benefits
- Supporting family caregivers with a tax credit for out-of-pocket expenses
- Allowing individuals to get paid sick leave and family caregivers to get caregiving leave
- Supporting our communities with safe streets, more housing, and high-speed internet

**CALL YOUR MEMBER OF CONGRESS!!!**



# AARP 2022 State Legislative Priorities

- PNA
  - Prescription Drug Affordability Board
    - Senator Keiser
    - Maximum caps on costs
  - Housing – Accessory Dwelling Units
    - Rep. Gregerson
    - Provide choice to older adults to age in place
  - Technology
  - WA Cares Fund
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# EBB and Broadband

- The EBB Program provides a temporary discount on monthly high-speed internet bills for qualifying low-income households. Eligible households can receive:
- Up to a \$50/month discount on your broadband service and associated equipment rentals
- Up to a \$75/month discount if your household is on qualifying Tribal lands
- A one-time discount of up to \$100 for a laptop, tablet, or desktop computer (with a co-payment of more than \$10 but less than \$50)
- Only one monthly service discount and one device discount is allowed per household.
- **ADVOCATE:** Make this program permanent

<https://getemergencybroadband.org/how-to-apply/>

# Technology Training and Skills Support for older adults

- Final budget in 2021 included \$6 million + for technology training and skills development for underrepresented populations including older adults.
- RFP for pilot program due Oct. 29
- Huge coalition effort
- OATS – Curriculum and training licensing



**ADVOCATE:**  
Permanent  
funding in  
2022 Budget



# What does the WA Cares Fund?

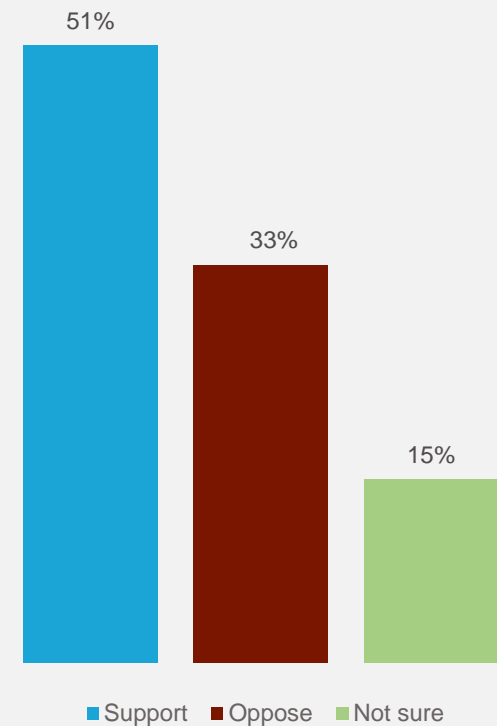
- Creates a \$36,500 lifetime long-term care benefit
- The benefit amount is adjusted annually
- Eligible beneficiaries qualify if:
  - Paid the premium for either:
    - ✓ Three of the last six years
    - ✓ Or a total of ten years with five uninterrupted
    - ✓ 500 hours per year
  - At least age 18, state resident
  - Need help with at least three activities of daily living
- 58 cents per \$100 --- \$290 on a \$50,000 annual income placed in trust
- Contributions start in 2022, first benefits paid in 2025

[longtermcareoptions.info](https://longtermcareoptions.info)  
[wacaresfund.wa.gov](https://wacaresfund.wa.gov)

# New AARP WA Cares Survey – Positive Support

- 800 voters 18+
- Overall, 51% of voters support the WA Cares Fund, 33% oppose, 15% were not sure of their support or opposition.

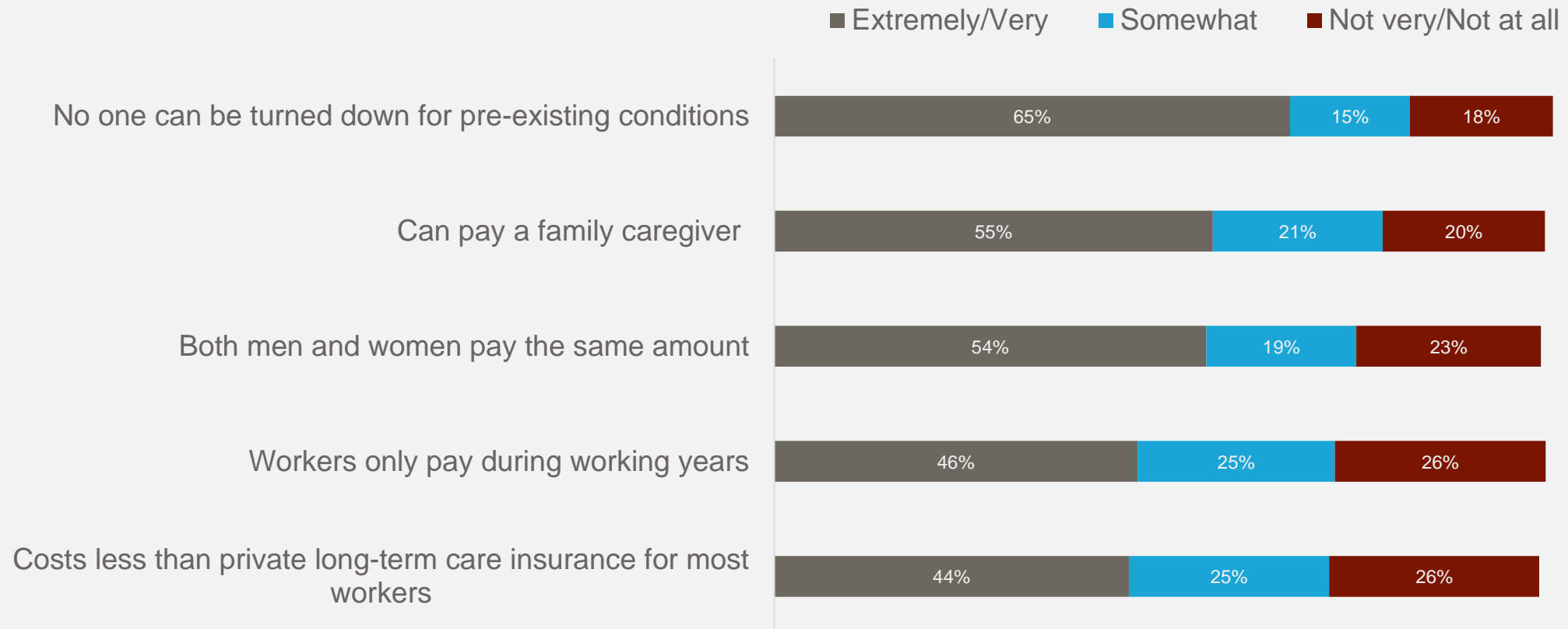
Support and Opposition for the Washington Cares Fund





# However, after hearing about five features of the Fund, many say they were somewhat more or much more likely to support it!

Importance of Select WA Cares Fund Features



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# AARP NATIVE AD ADDITION TO DSHS CAMPAIGN



**You can't be turned down for pre-existing conditions**

WA Cares Fund is long-term care for every Washingtonian regardless of your medical history



**Long-term care for all (22 chars)**

With WA Cares Fund, you can't be turned down for pre-existing conditions (72 chars)



Questions?

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[www.aarp.org/wa](http://www.aarp.org/wa)

<https://www.mobilize.us/aarprx/>