

**INTRODUCTION:** In response to the recent economic downturn, the State of Georgia is looking at cuts to programs and services as a way to balance the state budget. At the same time, “the sandwich generation,” those who are caring for children and parents, are increasingly reliant on supportive services while they try to stabilize their own financial security. This report highlights survey results from AARP Georgia members that show the importance these residents place on having services and policies that support family caregivers and the older adults who rely on them. These findings also point to strong opposition from these often-voting Georgia residents to budget cuts for health and wellness programs meant to ensure a healthy Georgia future.

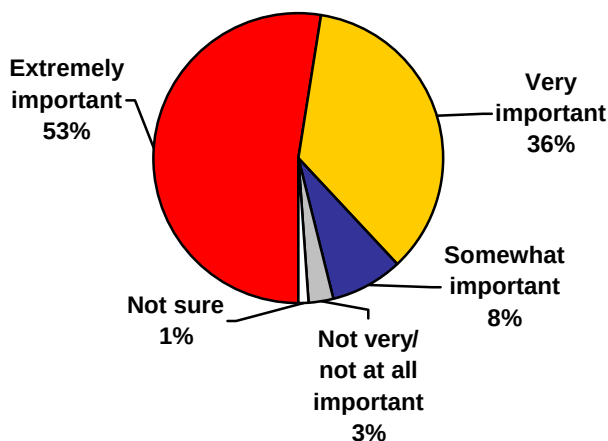
**METHODOLOGY:** This AARP-commissioned telephone survey of 803 Georgia members ages 50 to 60 was conducted between November 6 and November 14, 2008. The sampling error for this survey is  $\pm 3.4$  percent.

Two out of five (41%) AARP members in Georgia between the ages of 50 and 60 say they have been a caregiver to a family member or friend in the last 12 months, and seven in ten (72%) are at least somewhat concerned they might need to provide long-term care or assistance to a family member in the next five years. Most concerning, however, is that only about one in five (22%) are confident they could afford to pay for home care services, at a rate of \$18,000 a year, for two years.

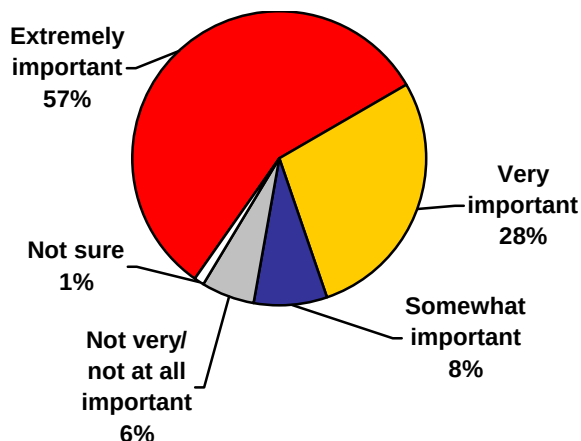
More than three-quarters (78%) of AARP Georgia members ages 50 to 60 say they would prefer to have long-term care services provided in the home over any other setting, if they or family members needed such services. As such, the vast majority view home and community-based services as essential to attaining this goal. For instance:

- Nine out of ten members surveyed say it would be extremely or very important to have services that would enable their family members and themselves to stay at home for as long as possible, if long-term care services were needed.
- Nearly as many members believe it is extremely or very important for the State of Georgia to maintain adequate levels of funding for home care services so people with disabilities and other chronic illnesses can remain in their homes for as long as possible.

**Importance of Having Services That Enable  
Individuals to Remain as Home**  
N=803

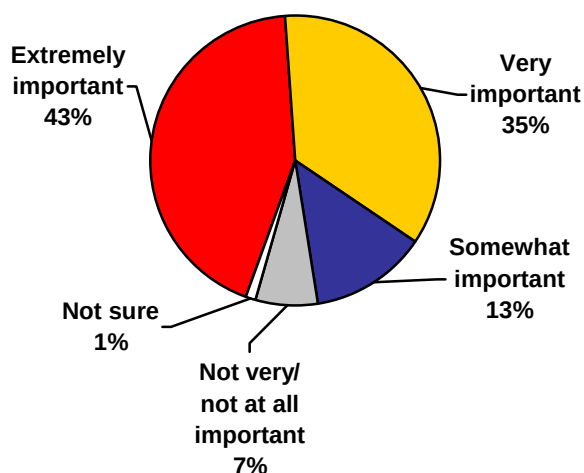


**Importance of Georgia Maintain Funding So  
People Can Remain in Their Homes**  
N=803

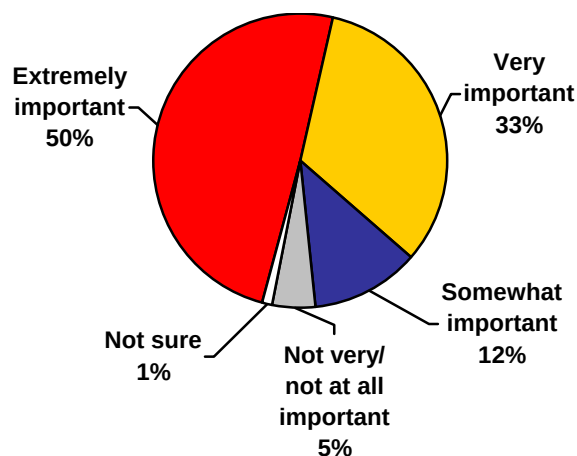


- Most AARP members surveyed believe it is important for Georgia to maintain funding for programs that support family caregivers: eight in ten members say it is either extremely or very important that Georgia maintains funding for caregiver respite programs and adult day services.

**Importance of Funding Caregiver Respite Programs**  
N=803

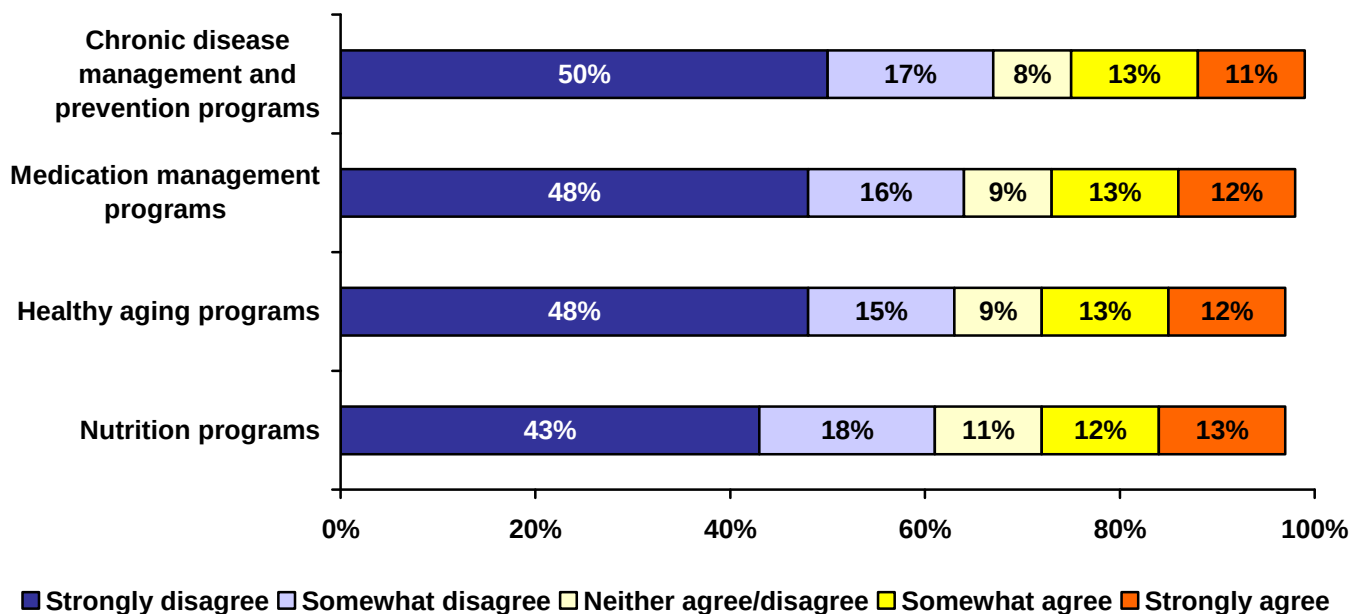


**Importance of Funding Adult Day Services**  
N=803



- Over half of AARP members age 50 to 60 years old disagree with the funding cuts the State of Georgia made to health and wellness programs, such as those for chronic disease management and prevention, medication management, healthy aging, and nutrition.

**Level of Disagreement with Cuts for Health and Wellness Programs**  
N=803\*



\*Does not include the 3% of fewer respondents who did not respond to the question or who said "not sure."

## **ANNOTATED QUESTIONNAIRE**

### **2008 AARP Georgia Long-Term Care Survey**

803 AARP Georgia Members Ages 50-60

#### ***Introduction***

Hello, this is \_\_\_\_\_ from Alan Newman Research, calling on behalf of A-A-R-P. We are calling residents of Georgia today/tonight to get their opinions on some health care issues. This is not a sales call and you will not be asked to buy anything either now or later. We would really like to include your opinions in our study and assure you that all of your answers will remain completely confidential. The survey should take only about 10 minutes to complete. (IF ASKED: AARP provided your name and phone number)

S1. Are you or your spouse a member of A-A-R-P?

1. Yes
2. No > Thank and terminate

S2. Screen for age

**1. If you or a family member needed long-term care services—that is supports and services provided over an extended period of time at home, in a community setting such as an adult day center or assisted living residence, or nursing home - how important would it be to have services that would help you or your family member to stay at home for as long as possible?**

|    |                               |
|----|-------------------------------|
| %  | n=803                         |
| 53 | Extremely important           |
| 36 | Very important                |
| 8  | Somewhat important            |
| 2  | Not very important            |
| 1  | Not at all important          |
| 1  | NOT SURE > <b>Do Not Read</b> |
| 0  | Refused > <b>Do Not Read</b>  |

- 2. There are many types of support services available for people with disabilities and other chronic illnesses who need long-term care. These services can be provided in a number of settings including your home or in a nursing home. Which of the following care options would you most prefer for yourself or a family member needing long-term care? [RANDOMIZE & READ]**

|     |                                                                                                                                   |
|-----|-----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| %   | n=803                                                                                                                             |
| 58  | Have care provided at home by both family and friends and a personal care aide                                                    |
| 10  | Have care provided at home by only family and friends                                                                             |
| 10  | Have care provided at home by only a personal care aide                                                                           |
| 16  | Have care provided in a home-like setting such as an assisted living facility where housing, food, and personal help are provided |
| 2   | Have care provided in a nursing home                                                                                              |
| 3   | NOT SURE > Do Not Read                                                                                                            |
| <.5 | Refused > Do Not Read                                                                                                             |

- 3. In the last twelve months, have you provided unpaid assistance to a relative or friend 18 years or older with a disability or other chronic illness to help them take care of themselves or manage their daily affairs? This could include help with personal needs or household chores. It might be managing a person's finances, arranging for outside services, or visiting regularly to see how they are doing.**

|     |                               |
|-----|-------------------------------|
| %   | n=803                         |
| 41  | Yes                           |
| 59  | No                            |
| <.5 | NOT SURE > <b>Do Not Read</b> |
| 0   | Refused > <b>Do Not Read</b>  |

- 4. How concerned are you that you might need to provide long-term care or assistance to a family member in the next five years?**

|     |                               |
|-----|-------------------------------|
| %   | n=803                         |
| 20  | Extremely concerned           |
| 24  | Very concerned                |
| 28  | Somewhat concerned            |
| 18  | Not very concerned            |
| 11  | Not at all concerned          |
| <.5 | NOT SURE > <b>Do Not Read</b> |
| 0   | Refused > <b>Do Not Read</b>  |

5. In 2007, the cost of having a certified home health aide come to your home to help with bathing, dressing, and other personal care was about \$17 per hour. If you or a family member needed services from a home health aide for about 20 hours per week at a cost of \$340 per week –or about \$18,000 per year, how confident are you that you would be able to pay for these services for two years? Are you ...[READ]

% n=803  
9 Extremely confident  
13 Very confident  
23 Somewhat confident  
24 Not very confident  
29 Not at all confident  
1 NOT SURE > **Do Not Read**  
<.5 Refused > **Do Not Read**

6. How important do you think it is for the State of Georgia to maintain adequate levels of funding for home care services so people with disabilities and other chronic illnesses can remain in their homes for as long as possible?

% n=803  
57 Extremely important  
28 Very important  
8 Somewhat important  
3 Not very important  
3 Not at all important  
1 NOT SURE > **Do Not Read**  
<.5 Refused > **Do Not Read**

7. How important do you think it is for the State of Georgia to maintain funding for respite programs that provide family caregivers with short-term breaks from their caregiving responsibilities as well as other supportive services?

% n=803  
43 Extremely important  
35 Very important  
13 Somewhat important  
4 Not very important  
3 Not at all important  
1 NOT SURE > **Do Not Read**  
<.5 Refused > **Do Not Read**

- 8. How important do you think it is for the State of Georgia to maintain funding for adult day programs which provide safe environments during the day for people with Alzheimer's disease or related dementia so their caregivers can work and attend to other daily activities?**

% n=803  
50 Extremely important  
33 Very important  
12 Somewhat important  
2 Not very important  
3 Not at all important  
1 NOT SURE > **Do Not Read**  
0 Refused > **Do Not Read**

**As a way to address budget shortfalls this year, the State of Georgia has made several cuts to health and wellness programs. (RANDOMIZE QUESTIONS 9-12)**

- 9. How strongly do you agree or disagree with funding cuts to nutrition, health and wellness programs that are designed to help residents make wise food choices?**

% n=803  
13 Strongly agree  
12 Somewhat agree  
11 Neither agree nor disagree  
18 Somewhat disagree  
43 Strongly disagree  
3 NOT SURE > **Do Not Read**  
<.5 Refused > **Do Not Read**

- 10. How strongly do you agree or disagree with funding cuts to health and wellness programs that are designed to help residents manage and prevent chronic diseases?**

% n=803  
11 Strongly agree  
13 Somewhat agree  
8 Neither agree nor disagree  
17 Somewhat disagree  
50 Strongly disagree  
2 NOT SURE > **Do Not Read**  
<.5 Refused > **Do Not Read**

**11. How strongly do you agree or disagree with funding cuts to nutrition, health and wellness programs that are designed to help residents live well and age well?**

% n=803  
12 Strongly agree  
13 Somewhat agree  
9 Neither agree nor disagree  
15 Somewhat disagree  
48 Strongly disagree  
2 NOT SURE > **Do Not Read**  
<.5 Refused > **Do Not Read**

**12. How strongly do you agree or disagree with funding cuts to health and wellness programs that are designed to help residents manage medications wisely?**

% n=803  
12 Strongly agree  
13 Somewhat agree  
9 Neither agree nor disagree  
16 Somewhat disagree  
48 Strongly disagree  
3 NOT SURE > **Do Not Read**  
<.5 Refused > **Do Not Read**

The following questions are for classification purposes only and will be kept entirely confidential.

**D1.) RECORD GENDER**

% n=803  
41 Male  
59 Female

**D2.) Would you say that in general your health today is...?**

% n=803  
23 Excellent  
38 Very good  
23 Good  
10 Fair  
5 Poor  
<.5 Not sure [DO NOT READ]  
1 Refused [DO NOT READ]

**D3.) What is your age as of your last birthday \_\_\_\_\_ (record in years)?**

**D4.) What is your current marital status?**

% n=803  
68 Married  
5 Not married, living with partner or significant other  
1 Separated  
14 Divorced  
4 Widowed  
6 Never married  
<.5 NOT SURE> **Do Not Read**  
1 REFUSED> **Do Not Read**

**D5.) What is the highest level of education that you completed?**

% n=803  
4 0-12<sup>th</sup> grade (no diploma)  
21 High school graduate (or equivalent)  
12 Post-high school education (no degree)  
15 2-year college degree  
22 4-year college degree  
9 Post-graduate study (no degree)  
16 Graduate or professional degree (s)  
<.5 NOT SURE> **Do Not Read**  
1 REFUSED> **Do Not Read**

**D6.) Which of the following best describes your employment status? Are you...**

% n=803  
58 Employed full-time  
9 Employed part-time  
17 Retired, not working at all  
5 Unemployed but looking for work  
10 Not in labor force for other reasons  
1 NOT SURE> **Do Not Read**  
1 REFUSED> **Do Not Read**

**D7.) In general, how often do you go online to access the Internet or World Wide Web or to send and receive email? Would you say ...?**

% n=803  
49 Several times a day  
17 About once a day  
7 3-5 days a week  
7 1-2 days a week  
2 Once every few weeks  
4 Once a month or less  
14 Or do you never go online to use the Internet or World Wide Web?  
<.5 NOT SURE> **Do Not Read**  
<.5 REFUSED> **Do Not Read**

**D8.) Are you of Hispanic, Spanish, or Latino origin or descent?**

% n=803  
1 Yes  
98 No  
<.5 NOT SURE > **Do Not Read**  
1 Refused > **Do Not Read**

**D9.) What is your race?**

% n=803  
73 White or Caucasian  
21 Black or African American  
1 Native American or Alaskan Native  
1 Asian  
<.5 Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander  
1 Or are you some other race? [Please Specify: \_\_\_\_\_]  
3 REFUSED> **Do Not Read**

**D10. Think about state elections for Governor and Legislators in the last ten years, which of the following best describes your voting behavior? Would you say you...**

% n=803  
68 Always vote  
20 Vote most of the time  
3 Vote about half the time  
3 Seldom vote  
4 Never vote  
1 REFUSED> **Do Not Read**

**D11.) Do you consider yourself to be a Democrat, Independent, Republican, or something else?**

|    |                               |
|----|-------------------------------|
| %  | n=803                         |
| 28 | Republican                    |
| 36 | Democrat                      |
| 19 | Independent                   |
| 11 | Something else                |
| 3  | NOT SURE > <b>Do Not Read</b> |
| 3  | REFUSED> <b>Do Not Read</b>   |

**D12.) We realize income is a private matter and so rather than ask anything specific about your income, I'd like to ask you to please stop me when I get to the category that includes your household's income before taxes in 2007. Was it...**

|    |                                |
|----|--------------------------------|
| %  | n=803                          |
| 4  | Less than \$10,000             |
| 6  | \$10,000 to less than \$20,000 |
| 9  | \$20,000 to less than \$35,000 |
| 12 | \$35,000 to less than \$50,000 |
| 10 | \$50,000 to less than \$60,000 |
| 11 | \$60,000 to less than \$75,000 |
| 35 | \$75,000 or more               |
| 1  | NOT SURE> <b>Do Not Read</b>   |
| 12 | REFUSED> <b>Do Not Read</b>    |

**Thank you for helping us with this survey. We appreciate your time!**

*AARP is a nonprofit, nonpartisan membership organization that helps people 50+ have independence, choice and control in ways that are beneficial and affordable to them and society as a whole. AARP does not endorse candidates for public office or make contributions to either political campaigns or candidates. We produce AARP The Magazine, the definitive voice for 50+ Americans and the world's largest-circulation magazine with over 33 million readers; AARP Bulletin, the go-to news source for AARP's 40 million members and Americans 50+; AARP Segunda Juventud, the only bilingual U.S. publication dedicated exclusively to the 50+ Hispanic community; and our website, AARP.org. AARP Foundation is an affiliated charity that provides security, protection, and empowerment to older persons in need with support from thousands of volunteers, donors, and sponsors. We have staffed offices in all 50 states, the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and the U.S. Virgin Islands*

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