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Workgroup Announced to Safeguard Financial Stability and Viability of Florida's Continuing Care Retirement Communities

TALLAHASSEE— LeadingAge Southeast and the Florida Life Care Residents Association (FLiCRA), in partnership with other key stakeholders, are proud to announce the formation of a new workgroup dedicated to reviewing and strengthening regulations for Florida's Continuing Care Retirement Communities (CCRCs).

The workgroup will focus on ensuring that Florida's CCRCs remain financially viable, offering stability and security to both residents and communities. As part of this collaborative effort, the workgroup will evaluate current regulatory frameworks and identify opportunities for improvements that better protect the interests of CCRC residents and their financial investments.

"The financial health of Continuing Care Retirement Communities is critical to the well-being of thousands of residents across Florida," said Steve Bahmer, LeadingAge Southeast President & CEO. "We are committed to ensuring that these communities have the support they need to thrive while also safeguarding the financial security of the residents they serve. By partnering with FLiCRA and other key stakeholders, this workgroup represents a collaborative approach to creating fair and effective regulations that will strengthen the future of CCRCs in Florida."

"The decision to move into continuing care retirement communities is one of the most significant decisions retirees will make," said Pat Burdsall, FLiCRA Board President, and resident at Indian River Estates in Vero Beach. "The CCRC model has proven to support aging in place with dignity, while providing access to wellness resources and socialization with like-minded individuals. Since CCRCs require substantial resident investment, appropriate regulatory safeguards are needed to ensure promises made are promises kept. To that end, on behalf of the 30,000 seniors living in Florida CCRCs we appreciate the collaborative efforts of all stakeholders in advancing meaningful reforms."

Key objectives of the workgroup include:

- Reviewing and refining existing regulations to ensure that the state has the tools needed to intervene and assist financially troubled CCRCs, protecting residents from financial instability.

- Developing regulatory standards that balance the need for oversight with the operational needs of CCRCs, ensuring they can continue to provide quality care and services.
- Promoting fair and transparent regulations that foster long-term stability for both CCRC operators and residents.

The formation of this workgroup is a proactive step to developing meaningful legislation for the 2026 Legislative Session that will ensure Florida's CCRCs remain safe, secure, and sustainable homes for the residents they serve.

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About LeadingAge Southeast

Established in 1963, LeadingAge Southeast is the premier association serving high-quality senior living providers across the continuum of care in Florida, Alabama, Louisiana and Mississippi. The Association provides up-to-date regulatory information, a wide variety of educational opportunities, representation before the Legislature and government agencies, group purchasing services, and opportunities for networking with peers to help member communities best serve the needs of older adults.

About FLiCRA

The Florida Life Care Residents Association (FLiCRA) is the largest and oldest statewide resident-based organization of its kind in the U.S. Its membership is comprised solely of residents of Continuing Care Retirement Communities in Florida. FLiCRA advocates for the rights of CCRC residents and works to ensure their financial and personal well-being in communities across the state.