

# L O N G - T E R M

## c a r e

## What You Need to Know

### WHY IS LONG TERM CARE A BUSINESS ISSUE?

- Corporate America is estimated to lose up to \$29 billion (direct and indirect costs) per year in employee productivity due to employees providing care to an elder - *The Washington Post, June 13, 1997.*
- These lost costs are broken down into replacing employee caregiver who resign (46%), interruptions at work (37%) and absenteeism (17%) – *The Washington Post, April 12, 1998.*
- There are approximately 14.4 million employees (one-eighth of the workforce) working and providing care to an elder – *The Washington Post, June 13, 1997.* That number is expected to triple in the next five to seven years – *The Detroit News, September 2, 1998.*
- *The Wall Street Journal*, in July of 1998, reported that 42% of employees expect to assume elder care duties within the next five years. Those workers have to change their work schedules in order to provide care by coming in late, leaving early or taking long lunches. Caregivers make or receive calls at work related to their responsibilities and, many times, are forced to miss work due to appointments or sudden crises.
- Baby boomers will end up spending 17 years caring for a child and 18 years caring for an aging parent – *Star Tribune of the Twin Cities Minneapolis-St. Paul, June 15, 1998.*
- National statistics have shown that caregivers, when compared with the general population, are three times more likely to be depressed, two to three times more likely to take psychotropic drugs like tranquilizers, and 12% more likely to use alcohol as a way to cope with stress – *Special Committee on Aging, September 10, 1998.*

- This year, nine million Americans will need long-term care services at an average cost of approximately \$55,750 per year – *Long Term Care Insurance National Advisory Council*. These costs are anticipated to triple in the next 20 years.
- More than 90% of private-pay residents of nursing homes become impoverished within one year – *How to Protect Your Life Savings, Harley Gordon*.
- Only about 10% of long-term care is paid by Medicare – *Consumers Digest, May/June 1998*.

Next month the Chamber's Long Term Care Task Force will provide a glossary of terms to help you and your employees better understand the world of long term care.