Comments for the Pre-White House Conference on Aging
May 18, 2005
Raleigh, NC

Thank you, Madame Chair. My name is Dan Mosca and I have worked as a Nursing Home Professional for the past 35 years. During this time I also have served as the President of the NC Health Care Facilities Assn and the American Health Care Assn. The NCHCFA serves more than 350 nursing homes in North Carolina and its members are responsible to more than 40,000 nursing home patients.

I am here to tell you that we are not prepared for the demographic tsunami which is about to crush us without the following objectives being addressed.

First, we need an adequate supply of adequately trained professional and non-professional medical, nursing and other staff for all health care and assisted living settings regardless of location.

Second, we need a stabilized system of funding health care services to prevent dramatic fluctuations in the delivery of care. Instability directly affects service delivery in any health care setting.

Third, we need to establish and maintain a national culture of wellness or well-being at all ages, but we also need to assure access to a full range of community and institutional services for a person in need at whatever point in one's life cycle.

The NC Health Care Facilities Assn believes that we cannot face these objectives without change. Consequently, our association members have embarked on a total strategic review of physical environments and service delivery. All health care must accommodate itself to consumer choice in the delivery of services in the most appropriate setting which meets inherent health care needs of the patient.

To this end our members are dedicated to this vision. And we challenge all health care providers in North Carolina and in the nation to join us in establishing a strategic vision for the delivery of quality health care to the elderly and disabled.

Thank you.