

December 19, 2017

The Honorable Orrin Hatch
Chairman
Committee on Finance
United States Senate

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Ranking Member
Committee on Finance
United States Senate

The Honorable Rob Portman
Senator
Committee on Finance
United States Senate

The Honorable Maria Cantwell
Senator
Committee on Finance
United States Senate

Dear Chairman Hatch, Ranking Member Wyden, Senator Portman, and Senator Cantwell:

The undersigned organizations strongly support extension of the Money Follows the Person. We applaud recent introduction of bipartisan legislation (S. 2227) by Senators Portman and Cantwell to do so and urge swift passage.

The Money Follows the Person (MFP) Demonstration – first authorized in the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 with strong bipartisan support and signed into law by President Bush – was designed to assist states with:

- 1) Supporting Medicaid enrollees who want to transition from nursing facilities and other institutional setting back to community-based settings; and
- 2) Developing infrastructure to promote and enhance access to HCBS.

Impact of Money Follows the Person

Since its inception, 47 states have participated and over 75,000 individuals have been transitioned back to the community. According to independent evaluations by Mathematica:

- Participants report significant and lasting improvements in quality of life and community integration after returning to the community.
- Findings suggest that after individuals return to the community, their overall Medicare and Medicaid expenditures decrease by roughly 23%.

States have made significant progress on “balancing” their long-term services and supports system to enhance access for HCBS, due in part to MFP. In FY05, states only spent approximately 37% of their LTSS expenditures on HCBS. According to the most recent data, states now spend over 53% on HCBS.

Need For Extension

While states have made great progress, more work is needed. Significant variations remain across states and different populations who need HCBS. For example, HCBS accounted for 75% of spending in programs targeting people with developmental disabilities, compared to only 41% of expenditures for programs targeting older people,

people with physical disabilities, and people with serious mental illness. Over 50,000 nursing home residents said they wanted to talk with someone about leaving their facility, but never received a referral to a local agency that could help them, according to recent analyses of Nursing Home Minimum Data Set reporting. States have learned lessons and can share promising practices with other states.

Unfortunately, the program expired on September 30, 2016. While states can continue to use remaining grant funding through 2020, they are currently scaling back their programs and reducing dedicated staff and resources. The most recent national evaluation indicates that last year was the first year that number of new transitions through the program declined. We are beginning to lose the momentum and progress we have made.

We commend you and your staff for the bipartisan process to develop this legislation, which will extend the program through 2022, remove barriers for individuals and states, enhance accountability, and contribute to sharing of best practices across states. This will assist states with achieving cost-efficiencies in their Medicaid programs while simultaneously enhancing opportunities for individuals to live independently and age with dignity in their homes and communities.

We applaud you for your leadership and look forward to working with you on passage.

Sincerely,

National Organizations:

AARP

ADAPT

Alliance for Citizen Directed Supports

Alliance for Retired Americans

Allies for Independence

Alzheimer's Association

Alzheimer's Impact Movement

America's Health Insurance Plans (AHIP)

American Association of People with Disabilities

American Association on Health and Disability

American Civil Liberties Union

American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR)

The Arc of the United States

Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living

Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD)
Autism Society of America
Autistic Self Advocacy Network
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
Centene Corporation
Center for Public Representation
Community Catalyst
Consumer Direct Care Network
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund (DREDF)
Easterseals
ElevatingHOME
The Jewish Federations of North America
Justice in Aging
Lakeshore Foundation
LeadingAge
Lutheran Services in America Disability Network
Medicaid Health Plans of America (MHPA)
National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys
National Association for Home Care and Hospice
National Association of Area Agencies on Aging
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities
National Association of Social Workers (NASW)
National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services
National Association of State Head Injury Administrators
National Association of State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs (NASOP)
National Center for American Indians with Disabilities
National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare
National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care
National Council on Aging
National Council on Independent Living
National Disability Rights Network

National Down Syndrome Congress
National Health Law Program
National MLTSS Health Plan Association
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
National Organization of Nurses with Disabilities (NOND)
National Rehabilitation Association
National Respite Coalition
Not Dead Yet
Nursing Home Victims Coalition, Inc
Paralyzed Veterans of America
Partnership for Medicaid Home-Based Care
PolicyWorks, Inc.
ResCare Home Care
Self-Development of People of the United Presbyterian Church
Special Needs Alliance
Special Needs Resource Project
TASH, Inc.
United States Brain Injury Alliance

State and Regional Organizations

Ability360 (Arizona)
Access 2 Independence (Georgia)
Access Alaska, Inc.
Access Center for Independent Living (Illinois)
Access to Independence of Cortland County, Inc. (New York)
Accessible Resources for Independence (Maryland)
The Arc Michigan
The Arc New York
The Arc of Alabama
The Arc of Arizona
The Arc of Illinois

The Arc of Pennsylvania
The Arc of South Carolina
The Arc of Texas
The Arc of the District of Columbia, Inc.
The Arc Tennessee
ADAPT Delaware
ADAPT Montana
ADAPT of Texas
The Adaptables, Inc. Center for Independent Living (North Carolina)
Advocates for Inclusion (Idaho)
Aging and Community Services of South Central Indiana
Aging Life Care Association (Arizona)
AIM Independent Living Center (New York)
Arkansas SILC
Appalachian Center for Independent Living (West Virginia)
Appalachian Independence Center, Inc. (Virginia)
ARISE Independent Living Center (New York)
Brain Injury Alliance of Iowa
Brain Injury Association of Georgia
Bronx Independent living Services (New York)
California Foundation for Independent Living Centers
California Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman
Cape Organization for Rights of the Disabled (CORD) (Massachusetts)
Caring Associates, Inc. (Florida)
Catskill Center for Independence (New York)
Center for Disabilities and Development, University of Iowa
Center for Disability Rights (New York)
Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY (New York)
Center for Living & Working, Inc. (Massachusetts)
Central Wisconsin ADAPT
CIL Western Wisconsin, Inc.

Coalition of Texans with Disabilities
Community Resources for Independent Living, Inc. (CRIL) (California)
Connecticut Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman
DC Metro ADAPT
Delaware Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman
Disabilities Law Program and Community Legal Aid Society, Inc. (Delaware)
Disabilities Resource Center of Siouland (Iowa)
Disability Action Center - NW, Inc. (Idaho)
Disability Action Center of Ga, INC (Georgia)
Disability in Action, Inc. (Texas)
Disability Law Colorado
disABILITY LINK (Georgia)
Disability Network Northern Michigan
Disability Policy Consortium (Massachusetts)
Disability Pride NYC, inc. (New York)
Disability Resource Center (Illinois)
Disability Rights California
Disability Rights Maryland
Disability Rights Nebraska
Disability Rights Tennessee
DisabilitySavvy (Michigan)
Faith Hope and Charity (Iowa)
FREED, Center for Independent Living (California)
Full Life Care (Washington)
Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC) (Delaware)
Hawaii Disability Rights Center
Hills & Dales (Iowa)
Houston Center for Independent Living (Texas)
Idaho State Independent Living Council
Illinois Chapter of the National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys
Illinois Iowa Center for Independent Living

Illinois Network of Centers for Independent Living (INCIL)
Illinois Valley Center for Independent Living
IMPACT CIL (Illinois)
Inclusion PAC (Illinois)
Independence Associates, Inc. (Massachusetts)
Independent Connection Inc. a Center for Independent Living (Kansas)
Independent Living Center of Kern County (California)
Independent Living Center of the Hudson Valley Inc. (New York)
Independent Living Center of the North Shore and Cape Ann, Inc. (Massachusetts)
Independent Living of the Genesee Region, Inc. (New York)
Independent Living Resource Center, Inc. (Kansas)
Indiana Association of Area Agencies on Aging
Indiana Statewide Independent Living Council (INSILC)
Institute on Disabilities Temple University (Pennsylvania)
Iowa Statewide Independent Living Council
Iowa Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman
Kansas ADAPT
League of Human Dignity, Inc. (Iowa)
LifeSpan Resources (Indiana)
Linking Employment, Abilities and Potential (LEAP) (Ohio)
Living Independence Network Corporation (LINC) (Idaho)
Living Independently For Everyone, Inc. (Idaho)
Living Independently for Today & Tomorrow (Montana)
Maine Long Term Care Ombudsman Program
Maryland ADAPT
Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council
Maryland Occupational Therapy Association
Maryland Statewide Independent Living Council
Mass Home Care Association
Massachusetts Advocates for Nursing Home Reform
Michigan Protection & Advocacy Service, Inc.

Middle Georgia Center for Independent Living, Inc.
Midwest Military Outreach (Iowa)
Missouri Association of Area Agencies on Aging
Missouri Long-Term Care Ombudsman
Montana Independent Living Project
Montana Statewide Independent Living Council
Muslims for Evidence Based Health Care (Washington)
Nebraska Ombudsman Office
New Hampshire Office of the Long Term Care Ombudman
New River Valley Disability Resource Center (Virginia)
New York Association on Independent Living
New York State Independent Living Council, Inc. (NYSILC)
New York State Office of the State Long Term Care Ombudsman
North Central Independent Living Services, Inc. (Montana)
Northeast Independent Living Program, Inc. (Massachusetts)
Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging
Ohio Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman
Old Friends Club (Washington)
Options for Independent Living (Wisconsin)
Paraquad (Missouri)
Personal Attendant Coalition of Texas
Prairie Independent Living Resource Center, Inc. (Kansas)
Progress Center for Independent Living (Illinois)
Progressive Center for Independent Living (New Jersey)
Protection & Advocacy Project of ND (North Dakota)
Protection and Advocacy for People with Disabilities, Inc. (South Carolina)
REAL Services, Inc. (Indiana)
Resident Councils of Washington
Resource Center for Independence Living (New York)
Resources for Independence Central Valley (California)
RI long Term Care Ombudsman (Rhode Island)

Roads to Independence (Utah)
Rolling Start Inc. (California)
SCIL (Missouri)
Senior Advisory Council of King County (Washington)
Service Center For Independent Life (California)
Shepherd Center (Georgia)
Silicon Valley Independent Living Center (California)
Smart Policy Works (Illinois)
Sno-valley Senior Center (Washington)
Southeast Kansas Independent Living Resource Center
Southeastern Wisconsin ADAPT
Southeastern Wisconsin Disability Rights
Southern Tier Independence Center (New York)
Southwest Center for Independent Living (SCIL) (Missouri)
Spa Area Independent Living Services, Inc. (Arkansas)
Star Choices, Inc. (Georgia)
Statewide Independent Living Council of Illinois
Stavros Center for Independent Living (Massachusetts)
Sunrise Fiduciary (California)
SWIRCA & More (Indiana)
Syntiro (Maine)
Texas Advocates
Texas Association for Home Care & Hospice
Texas Parent to Texas
The Freedom Center, Inc. (Maryland)
The IMAGE Center for People with Disabilities (Maryland)
The Resource Center for Accessible Living, Inc. (New York)
Topeka Independent Living Resource Center (Kansas)
Touch the Future Inc. (South Carolina)
Transitions in Dementia Care (Washington)
Vermont Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program

Voices for Quality Care (LTC), Inc. (Maryland)

Walton Options (Georgia)

Washington State Independent Living Council

West Virginia Statewide Independent Living Council

Westchester Disabled on The Move Inc. (New York)

Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities