



*Believing in the spirit of a child.*

childserve

July 3, 2018

The Honorable Chuck Grassley  
135 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Michael Bennet  
261 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Joe Barton  
2107 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Kathy Castor  
2052 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: S. 428 and H.R. 3325

Dear Sens. Grassley and Bennet and Reps. Barton and Castor:

ChildServe provides care to nearly 5,000 children per year in Iowa with special healthcare needs, including some with the most medically complex conditions. Our mission is to partner with families to help children with special healthcare needs live a *great* life. On behalf of ChildServe, I am writing to express our support for S. 428 and H.R. 3325, The Advancing Care for Exceptional Kids Act of 2017 (The ACE Kids Act). We thank you for your leadership in introducing this bipartisan legislation to improve care for children with complex medical conditions on Medicaid.

Children with complex medical conditions have chronic life-limiting illnesses and disabilities that often see several specialists and multiple physicians, and require care that can take them across state lines. Under the current Medicaid system, parents of children with complex conditions struggle to coordinate the care their children need, which includes providers in multiple locations and even out of state. Only federal legislation that creates regional systems of care can fix the fragmented system for children with complex medical conditions. .

The ACE Kids Act, which is voluntary for states, families and providers, creates a patient-centered, pediatric-focused delivery system for this unique population of children to ensure ready access to care across state lines and reduce the burden on these children's families. Specially-designed health homes created for children with complex medical conditions under the ACE Kids Act would employ national quality standards and coordinate care, both essential to improving quality of care and lowering costs. These health homes would include the full range of acute, post-acute and primary care providers, as well as behavioral health professionals. The health homes would focus on outpatient care to ensure children get the care that they need in the most appropriate settings closest to home, while reducing unnecessary hospitalizations and emergency room visits.

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The ACE Kids Act can deliver savings to Medicaid through increased efficiencies, including reducing hospitalizations and emergency room visits, while coordinating the array of outpatient and community services and support needed by these children. We are happy to support this important legislation.

Providing children with complex medical conditions enrolled in Medicaid the best possible care is a national challenge and the ACE Kids Act will bring us closer to ensuring these vulnerable children receive the care they need. We thank you for championing the ACE Kids Act and look forward to working with you to advance this critical legislation this year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Teri Wahlig".

Teri Wahlig, MD, MBA

ChildServe

Chief Executive Officer