
Summary of Written Testimony of Barbara Merrill, Chief Executive Officer, ANCOR

Community-Based Services Support People with I/DD and the Broader Community

Community-Based I/DD Services Are Less Costly than Their Alternatives: Medicaid home- and community-based services are not only essential to supporting people with I/DD to live lives with dignity and independence; they are also a cost-efficient solution when compared with the alternative of supporting people in large, state-run, institutional settings.

Community-Based I/DD Services Support Working Families & The Broader Economy:

Community providers of I/DD services support a robust economy, through ensuring family members can remain in the workforce, employing one of the fastest-growing workforces, and providing services that enable people with disabilities and their families to secure and maintain employment.

Barriers to Sustainability Persist in the Community-Based I/DD Services System

Insufficient Increases in Provider Rates Means Long-Term Workforce Shortage:

Providers struggle with a long-standing workforce crisis in community-based settings, due to insufficient reimbursement rates and the inability of providers to offer wages that enable them to compete with other industries.

Reduced Medicaid Funding Has Significant Impacts on Community I/DD Services:

Within an already-fragile system of services, providers now face looming state budget cuts that threaten to negatively impact community-based services.

Overly Broad Enforcement Mechanisms Put HCBS at Risk: ANCOR supports efforts to ensure Medicaid programs are secure and not subject to waste, fraud, and abuse, but is concerned about the potential for overly broad enforcement mechanisms that would harm access to home- and community-based services.

Federal Investments Are Needed to Make Services Sustainable

Sufficient Medicaid funding and a robust community provider network are foundational to lower long-term health care costs and build a stronger America for everyone.