



AREA AGENCIES ON AGING ASSOCIATION OF MICHIGAN
6105 W. ST. JOSEPH, SUITE 204, LANSING, MICHIGAN 48917

U.S. Representative Debbie Dingell
116 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Congresswoman Dingell,

The Area Agency on Aging Association of Michigan (4AM) represents the 16 Area Agencies on Aging serving every jurisdiction in the state of Michigan. Area Agencies on Aging are experts in providing long term support services across Michigan with more than 40 years of experience. We are writing on behalf of our membership to thank you for your sponsorship of H.R. 5306 reauthorizing the EMPOWER Care Act.

As you know, this Money Follows the Person (MFP) program provides an effective and efficient mechanism to help seniors and persons with disabilities to move back to the community they call home from a nursing home setting. This program not only improves the quality of life reported by seniors and persons with disabilities who have returned to the community, but the Home and Community Based Services also provide significant savings over the cost of an institutional setting – Nearly \$1,840 per month less than the cost of an institution according to the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services.

The reauthorization of the EMPOWER Care Act seeks not only to maintain this quality of life enhancing and fiscally prudent service through FY 2022, but it also seeks to create key improvements. Such improvements include:

- Reducing the number of days someone must be in a nursing home before becoming eligible for the program from 90 to 60;
- Enhances reporting and accountability requirements of the MFP funding;
- Requiring Health and Human Services to conduct a review and share the most effective state strategies for transitioning beneficiaries from an institution to a qualified community setting.

Again, we thank you for your sponsorship of H.R. 5306, the Reauthorization of the EMPOWER Care Act. Please do not hesitate to contact me should you want more information on this key program.

Sincerely,

Ryan Cowmeadow, Executive Director

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