

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  
Autism Speaks  
Autistic Self Advocacy Network  
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law  
Caring Across Generations  
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 Siouxland (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