

March 5, 2018

The Honorable Greg Walden
Chairman
House Energy and Commerce Committee

The Honorable Frank Pallone
Ranking Member
House Energy and Commerce Committee

The Honorable Michael Burgess
Chairman, Health Subcommittee
House Energy and Commerce Committee

The Honorable Gene Green
Ranking Member, Health Subcommittee
House Energy and Commerce Committee

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
Member
House Energy and Commerce Committee

The Honorable Debbie Dingell
Member
House Energy and Commerce Committee

Dear Chairman Walden, Ranking Member Pallone, Chairman Burgess, Ranking Member Green, Representative Guthrie, and Representative Dingell:

The undersigned organizations strongly support extension of the Money Follows the Person. We applaud introduction of bipartisan legislation by Representatives Guthrie and Dingell 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 People Supporting Employment First

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

B'nai B'irth International

Caring Across Generations
Centene Corporation
Center for Public Representation
Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation
Community Catalyst
Consumer Direct Care Network
DQIA: Disabled Queers in Action!
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund (DREDF)
Easterseals
ElevatingHOME
The Jewish Federations of North America
Justice in Aging
Lakeshore Foundation
LeadingAge
Little Lobbyists
Lutheran Services in America Disability Network
Medicaid Health Plans of America (MHPA)
Medicare Rights Center
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 Center for Environmental Health Strategies
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.
Program to Improve Eldercare, Altarum
ResCare Home Care
Self-Development of People of the United Presbyterian Church
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
Sibling Leadership Network
Special Needs Alliance
Special Needs Resource Project
TASH, Inc.
United States Brain Injury Alliance
Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement (WISER)

State and Regional Organizations

Ability360 (Arizona)
The Ability Center of Greater Toledo (Ohio)
Ability now Bay Area (California)
Able South Carolina
Access 2 Independence (Georgia)
Access Alaska, Inc.
Access to Independence, Inc. (Wisconsin)
Access Center for Independent Living (Illinois)
Access to Independence of Cortland County, Inc. (New York)
Access Support Network of San Luis Obispo and Monterey Counties (California)
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
Area Agency on Aging Association of Michigan, Inc.
ADAPT Delaware
ADAPT Montana
ADAPT of Texas
The Adaptables, Inc. Center for Independent Living (North Carolina)
Advocacy Center of Louisiana
Advocates for Inclusion (Idaho)
Aging and Community Services of South Central Indiana
Aging Life Care Association (Arizona)
AIM Independent Living Center (New York)
Alliance of People with disAbilities (Washington)
Arkansas SILC
Appalachian Center for Independent Living (West Virginia)
Appalachian Independence Center, Inc. (Virginia)
ARISE Independent Living Center (New York)
Association of California Caregiver Resource Centers
Atlantis Community, Inc. (Colorado)
Austin Resource Center for Independent Living, Inc. (Texas)
Blue Ridge Independent Living Center, Inc.
Brain Injury Alliance of Iowa
Brain Injury Association of Georgia
Brain Injury Association of Kansas and Greater Kansas
Brain Injury Association of Massachusetts
Bronx Independent living Services (New York)

California Children's Services Transition Program
California Foundation for Independent Living Centers
California Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman
California Supported Living Network
Californians for Disability Rights Inc.
Cape Organization for Rights of the Disabled (CORD) (Massachusetts)
Caring Associates, Inc. (Florida)
Catskill Center for Independence (New York)
Center for Accessible Living (Kentucky)
Center for Disabilities and Development, University of Iowa
Center for Disability Rights (Connecticut)
Center for Disability Rights (New York)
Center for Independence (Washington)
Center for Independence of the Disabled, NY (New York)
Center for Living & Working, Inc. (Massachusetts)
Central Wisconsin ADAPT
Choice in Aging (California)
CIL Western Wisconsin, Inc.
Coalition of Texans with Disabilities
Colorado Springs Independence Center (Colorado)
Community Resources for Independent Living, Inc. (CRIL) (California)
Connecticut Office of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman
Connecticut State Independent Living Council
Dayle McIntosh Center (California)
DC Metro ADAPT
Delaware Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman
DIRECT Center for Independence (Arizona)
Disabled Rights Action Committee (Utah)
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 Solutions for Independent Living (Florida)
Disability Network Northern Michigan
Disability Policy Consortium (Massachusetts)
Disability Pride NYC, inc. (New York)
Disability Resource Center (Illinois)
Disability Rights Arkansas
Disability Rights California
Disability Rights Maryland
Disability Rights Nebraska
Disability Rights Tennessee
Disability Rights Washington
DisabilitySavvy (Michigan)
East Bay Innovations (California)
Empower Tennessee
Faith Hope and Charity (Iowa)
Family Voices New Jersey
FREED Center for Independent Living (California)
The Freedom Center, Inc. (California)
Full Life Care (Washington)
Georgia ADAPT
Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities
Governor's Advisory Council for Exceptional Citizens (GACEC) (Delaware)
Granite State Independent Living (New Hampshire)
Hawaii Disability Rights Center
Hawaii State Council on Developmental Disabilities
Hills & Dales (Iowa)
Houston Center for Independent Living (Texas)
Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities
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)
Independence First (Wisconsin)
Independence Unlimited (Connecticut)
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 Council of Wisconsin, Inc.
Independent Living of the Genesee Region, Inc. (New York)
Independent Living Resource Center (California)
Independent Living Resource Center, Inc. (Kansas)
Indiana Association of Area Agencies on Aging
Indiana Statewide Independent Living Council (INSILC)
Inland Empire Coverage and Health Institute (California)
Institute on Aging (California)
Institute on Disabilities Temple University (Pennsylvania)
Iowa Statewide Independent Living Council
Iowa Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman
Kansas ADAPT
LeadingAge California
League of Human Dignity, Inc. (Iowa)
LifeSpan Resources (Indiana)
LINK Inc. (Kansas)
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)
Los Angeles Aging Advocacy Coalition (California)
Maine Long Term Care Ombudsman Program
Marin Center for Independent Living (California)
Maryland ADAPT
Maryland Alliance of Disability Commissions and Committees

Maryland Association of Centers for Independent living
Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council
Maryland Occupational Therapy Association
Maryland Statewide Independent Living Council
Mass Home Care Association
Massachusetts Advocates for Nursing Home Reform
Memphis Center for Independent living (Tennessee)
Michigan Disability Rights Coalition
Michigan Elder Justice Initiative
Michigan Health Link Coaliton
Michigan Long Term Care Ombudsman Program
Michigan Olmstead Coalition
Michigan Protection & Advocacy Service, Inc.
Midstate Independent Living Choice, Inc. (Wisconsin)
Middle Georgia Center for Independent Living, Inc.
Midwest Military Outreach (Iowa)
Missouri Association of Area Agencies on Aging
Missouri Developmental Disabilities Council
Missouri Long-Term Care Ombudsman
Montana Independent Living Project
Montana Statewide Independent Living Council
Muslims for Evidence Based Health Care (Washington)
NAMI Connecticut
National Federation of the Blind of Maryland
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)
North Country Independent Living, Inc. (Wisconsin)
Northeast Independent Living Program, Inc. (Massachusetts)
Northern Regional Center for Independent Living (New York)

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)
Partners in Care Foundation (California)
Pennsylvania ASPE
Personal Assistance Services Council (California)
Personal Attendant Coalition of Texas
Placer Independent Resource Services (California)
Public Health Advocates (California)
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)
RAMP Center for Independent Living (Illinois)
REAL Services, Inc. (Indiana)
Resident Councils of Washington
Resource Center for Accessible Living (New York)
Resource Center for Independence Living (New York)
Resources for Independent Living, Inc. (Virginia)
Resources for Independence Central Valley (California)
RI long Term Care Ombudsman (Rhode Island)
Roads to Independence (Utah)
Ron Yost Personal Assistance Services Board (West Virginia)
Rolling Start Inc. (California)
San Antonio Independent Living Services (Texas)
San Diegans for Healthcare Coverage (California)
SCIL (Missouri)
SECC, Washington DC/Maryland
Senior Advisory Council of King County (Washington)
SeniorServ (California)
Service Center For Independent Life (California)

Shepherd Center (Georgia)
Silicon Valley Independent Living Center (California)
Smart Policy Works (Illinois)
Sno-valley Senior Center (Washington)
Society's Assets, Inc. (Wisconsin)
Sources for Community Independent Living Services (Arkansas)
Southeast Kansas Independent Living Resource Center
Southeastern Wisconsin ADAPT
Southeastern Wisconsin Disability Rights
Southern Adirondack Independent Living Center (New York)
Southern Tier Independence Center (New York)
Southwest Center for Independence (Colorado)
Southwest Center for Independent Living (SCIL) (Missouri)
Southwest Louisiana Independence Center
Spa Area Independent Living Services, Inc. (Arkansas)
St. Barnabas Senior Services (California)
Star Choices, Inc. (Georgia)
Statewide Parent Advocacy network (New Jersey)
Statewide Independent Living Council of Georgia
Statewide Independent Living Council of Illinois
Statewide Independent Living Council of Tennessee
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)

UDW/AFSCME Local 3930 (California)
University of Cincinnati Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities
Utah Developmental Disabilities Council
Vermont Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program
The Viscardi Center (New York)
Voices for Quality Care (LTC), Inc. (Maryland)
Walton Options for Independent Living, Inc. (Georgia and South Carolina)
Washington State Independent Living Council
West Virginia Statewide Independent Living Council
Western Center on Law and Poverty (California)
Western Reserve Independent Living Center (Ohio)
Western New York Independent Living
Westchester Disabled on The Move Inc. (New York)
Wisconsin Board for People with Developmental Disabilities
Wisconsin Coalition of Independent Living Centers