



January 7, 2020

The Honorable Earl L. "Buddy" Carter  
2432 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Re: January 8, 2020 hearing on H.R. 3935 by the Subcommittee on Health of the House Committee on Energy and Commerce

Dear Representative Carter:

The American Network of Community Options & Resources (ANCOR) would like to thank you for sponsoring H.R. 3935, the "Protecting Patients Transportation to Care Act" and express our support. As an organization that represents community-based disability service providers, we are acutely aware of how important non-emergency medical transportation (NEMT) is to helping the people our members support to access the care they need. Without NEMT, people with disabilities would not be able to access critical health services, like dialysis, primary care, preventive care and care for substance use disorders. Therefore, we strongly support making NEMT a statutorily mandated Medicaid benefit.

ANCOR is a national, nonprofit trade association representing more than 1,600 private community providers of services to people with disabilities. Combined, we support over one million individuals with disabilities, and work to shape policy, share solutions and strengthen the community.

Non-emergency medical transportation is both a critical and cost-effective benefit. In a recent survey of NEMT recipients, 58 percent reported that they would not be able to make any medical appointments without NEMT.<sup>1</sup> By helping patients access routine and preventive care, NEMT helps prevent avoidable medical emergencies and costly hospitalizations. More specifically, while NEMT provides transportation to 10 percent of, or about 7 million, Medicaid enrollees, it only constitutes 1 percent of Medicaid's total budget.<sup>2</sup> Recent data has also shown that NEMT has resulted in a return on investment for both wound care for diabetics and dialysis.<sup>3</sup> Additionally, one Florida study estimated that if just 1 percent of all medical transportation trips prevent a one-day stay in a hospital, the resulting return on investment would be 11:1.<sup>4</sup>

In recent years, both the benefits of NEMT as well as the consequences of not providing NEMT have been demonstrated across states. While providing NEMT has been shown to help patients stay

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<sup>1</sup> Medical Transportation Access Coalition, *The Value of Medicaid's Transportation Benefit – Results of a Return on Investment Study*, <https://mtaccoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/NEMT-ROI-Study-Results-One-Pager.pdf> and <https://mtaccoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/NEMT-ROI-Methodology-Paper.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Letter from the Congressional Black Caucus to Chairwoman Rosa L. DeLauro and Ranking Member Tom Cole of the House Committee on Appropriations, February 15, 2019

<sup>3</sup> Medical Transportation Access Coalition, *The Value of Medicaid's Transportation Benefit – Results of a Return on Investment Study*, <https://mtaccoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/08/NEMT-ROI-Study-Results-One-Pager.pdf> and <https://mtaccoalition.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/07/NEMT-ROI-Methodology-Paper.pdf>

<sup>4</sup> The Stephen Group, *Volume II: Recommendations to the Arkansas Health Reform Task Force Re: Health Care Reform/Medicaid Consulting Services*, October 2015, <https://www.stephengroupinc.com/images/engagements/Final-Report-Volume-II.pdf>

healthy and states save money, as explained above, forgoing NEMT has been shown to be a barrier to receiving care and maintaining overall health.<sup>5</sup>

For all of these reasons, we support H.R. 3935 and thank you for your leadership on this issue. By codifying NEMT as a required Medicaid benefit, all Medicaid enrollees, including those that we serve, will be able to access this critical health care service that will help them lead healthy, productive lives.

Sincerely,



Sarah Meek  
Senior Director of Legislative Affairs

Cc: The Honorable Frank Pallone, Chair, House Committee on Energy and Commerce  
The Honorable Greg Walden, Ranking Member, House Committee on Energy and Commerce  
The Honorable Anna G. Eshoo, Chair, House Subcommittee on Health  
The Honorable Michael C. Burgess, Ranking Member, House Subcommittee on Health  
The Honorable Tony Cárdenas  
The Honorable Tom Graves  
The Honorable Sanford D. Bishop Jr.

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<sup>5</sup> The Lewin Group, *Indiana HIP 2.0: Evaluation of Non-Emergency Medical Transportation (NEMT) Waiver*, March 11, 2016,  
<https://www.in.gov/fssa/hip/files/Indiana%20HIP%202.0%20NEMT%20Report%20Updated%203-11-16.pdf>