



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

March 18, 2019

Representative Brett Guthrie
2434 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Representative Debbie Dingell
116 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Guthrie and Representative Dingell:

The undersigned members of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) Long-Term Services & Supports (LTSS) Task Force write to express our strong support for the EMPOWER Care Act (H.R. 1342) to reauthorize the Money Follows the Person (MFP) Medicaid demonstration program for five more years. Reauthorizing MFP for a significant period of time is the top priority of the disability and aging communities.

CCD is the largest coalition of national organizations working together to advocate for federal public policy that ensures the self-determination, independence, empowerment, integration and inclusion of children and adults with disabilities in all aspects of society.

While Congress has made great bipartisan strides in ensuring persons with disabilities can be integrated into their communities, systematic biases still exist that favor more costly institutional care over home and community-based services (HCBS). MFP follows in that proud history of passing bipartisan legislation to ensure that individuals with disabilities can live in the setting of their choice.

First authorized in the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005, with strong bipartisan support and signed into law by President George W. Bush, the MFP has helped more than 88,000 older adults (CMS, 2018) and people with disabilities – nearly one-third of them older adults -- transition out of nursing homes and other institutional settings back to living in their communities.

MFP has also enabled at least 43 states and the District of Columbia to develop the needed infrastructure to enhance people's access to home and community-based services (HCBS), while helping states shift more of their resources to HCBS and reduce expenditures on more expensive institutional services.

We thank you both for your longstanding and vocal commitment to promoting community living for both people with disabilities and older adults. We look forward to working with you to pass this incredibly important legislation.

Sincerely,

Allies for Independence
American Association of People with Disabilities
American Association on Health and Disability

American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
American Civil Liberties Union
American Dance Therapy Association
American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR)
American Physical Therapy Association
American Psychological Association
American Therapeutic Recreation Association
Arc of the United States
Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE)
Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD)
Autism Society of America
Autism Speaks
Autistic Self Advocacy Network
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
Brain Injury Association of America
Center for Public Representation
Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund (DREDF)
Easterseals
Epilepsy Foundation
Family Voices
The Jewish Federations of North America
Justice in Aging
Lutheran Services in America Disability Network
National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities
National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services
National Association of State Head Injury Administrators
National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities (NASUAD)
National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare
National Council on Aging
National Council on Independent Living
National Disability Rights Network
National Down Syndrome Congress
National Health Law Program
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
National Respite Coalition
Paralyzed Veterans of America
Special Needs Alliance
TASH, Inc.
United Spinal Association

Cc: Energy & Commerce Chair Frank Pallone
Energy & Commerce Ranking Member Greg Walden
Speaker of the House Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader Kevin McCarthy