

# The Disability and Aging Collaborative &



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS  
WITH DISABILITIES**

June 15, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20515

The **252** undersigned member organizations of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD), Disability and Aging Collaborative (DAC), and other state and national organizations write to urge you to include the vital needs of people with disabilities and aging adults in the next COVID-19 relief package.

While the COVID-19 legislative packages passed by Congress thus far were expansive, they all but ignored the critical needs of the disability and aging communities. Thankfully, the HEROES Act that passed the House on May 15, 2020 did include several provisions imperative to the lives of people with disabilities and aging adults. These provisions must remain in the bill that ultimately passes the Senate.

In particular, the dedicated funding for Medicaid Home and Community-based (HCBS) services is of utmost importance for the disability and aging communities. Those funds are necessary to support the workforce that provides critical services to people with disabilities and aging adults, the service providers that employ that workforce, and the people who rely on those services to live safely in their homes and communities. The home and community-based service system, already overburdened before the pandemic, does not have the resources it needs to safely support people with disabilities and aging adults through this crisis. Without additional resources, aging adults and people with disabilities will be forced to leave their homes and communities and move into congregate settings, a failure to safeguard their civil rights and a grave risk to their health--as demonstrated by severe and persistent outbreaks in nursing facilities, institutions and other congregate settings.

We were pleased to see that the HEROES Act included a broad FMAP increase for Medicaid. Millions of people with disabilities, aging adults and their families rely on the Medicaid system

to support them in their homes and communities and for their other healthcare needs. When faced with budget crises and other stressors, states have often responded by cutting Medicaid benefits, eligibility or payments to providers. During a pandemic it is imperative that funding flows to states to support the stability of the Medicaid program. We urge you to support a broad FMAP increase and urge you to maintain the strong maintenance of effort (MOE) protections that were included in the Families First Act. Any weakening of the MOE would put Medicaid coverage, eligibility and services at risk.

The broad FMAP enhancement, while important, is not targeted to vitally important HCBS programs, which every state relies on to keep people out of, or enable them to transition from, institutions. Because HCBS are optional Medicaid services, they are some of the most at risk for cuts in budget crises, placing people with disabilities and older adults at serious risk of unnecessary institutionalization. The funding dedicated to HCBS is necessary to keep people with disabilities and aging adults safely in their homes and communities. Therefore, we again urge that the package ultimately passed in the Senate MUST INCLUDE the targeted 10 percent FMAP increase for HCBS included in the House package in addition to a broader FMAP increase for all Medicaid services.

We must act now to prevent much of the worst impact of this outbreak, and we are grateful for the prompt action so far taken. We urge the Senate to address the serious, destabilizing deficits facing our Nation's only publicly funded long-term care system by including both the broad enhanced FMAP and the targeted enhanced FMAP for HCBS in its coronavirus response package. For additional information or questions, feel free to contact CCD LTSS and DAC co-chair Nicole Jorwic: [jorwic@thearc.org](mailto:jorwic@thearc.org).

Sincerely,

Agencies on Aging of CT  
Aging Life Care Association  
Aging Services Consultant  
Alabama Conference of Executives of The Arc  
Alabama Lifespan Respite  
Alzheimer's Association  
Alzheimer's Impact Movement  
Altarum, Program to Improve Eldercare  
American Association on Health and Disability  
American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities  
American Civil Liberties Union  
American Dance Therapy Association  
American Geriatrics Society  
American Kidney Fund  
American Network of Community Options & Resources (ANCOR)  
American Physical Therapy Association  
American Therapeutic Recreation Association

Area Agencies on Aging Association of Michigan  
Arizona ADAPT  
Arizona Association of Area Agencies on Aging  
Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE)  
Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living  
Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD)  
Autism Family Services of New Jersey  
Autism Society Greater Baton Rouge, Inc.  
Autism Society Greater Harrisburg Area  
Autism Society Greater Philadelphia  
Autism Society Louisiana  
Autism Society of America  
Autism Society of Baltimore-Chesapeake  
Autism Society of Boulder County  
Autism Society of Greater Akron  
Autism Society of Greater New Orleans  
Autism Society of Greater Wisconsin  
Autism Society of Iowa  
Autism Society of Maine  
Autism Society of Minnesota  
Autism Society of North Louisiana  
Autism Society of Northern Virginia  
Autism Society of Oregon  
Autism Society of South Central Wisconsin  
Autism Society Of Southeastern Wisconsin  
Autism Society of Texas  
Autism Society of the Greater Capital Region  
Autism Society River Cities  
Autism Society Southwest New Jersey Affiliate 532  
Autism Society Ventura County  
Autistic Self Advocacy Network (ASAN)  
BIAA-KY  
Brain Injury Association of America  
Brain Injury Association of Delaware  
Brain Injury Association of Kansas and Greater Kansas City  
Brain Injury Association of Michigan  
Brain Injury Association of New York State  
Brain Injury Association of Rhode Island  
Brain Injury Association-KY Chapter  
Brainwave Neurorehab, PLLC  
California Down Syndrome Advocacy Coalition  
Caregivers of New Jersey  
Caring Across Generations  
Center for Health Law and Policy Innovation  
Center for Public Representation  
Central MN Council on Aging  
Channel Islands Social Services  
Chesapeake Down Syndrome Parent Group

Chicagoland Disabled People of Color Coalition  
Children's Aid  
Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation  
Chronic Disease Coalition  
Coachella Valley Autism Society  
Coalition on Human Needs  
Colorado Cross-Disability Coalition  
CommunicationFIRST  
Community Catalyst  
Community Options, Inc.  
Congress of California Seniors  
Cure SMA  
DC Special Kids  
Democratic Disability Caucus of FLORIDA  
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund (DREDF)  
Disability Rights Florida  
Disability Voices United  
DISABLED QUEERS IN ACTION ( NAT)  
Down Syndrome Alliance of the Midlands  
Down Syndrome Association of Central California  
Down Syndrome Association of Connecticut  
Down Syndrome Association of Northern Virginia  
Down Syndrome Connection of the Bay Area  
Down Syndrome Foundation of Florida  
Down Syndrome Guild of Greater Kansas City  
Down Syndrome Partnership of North Texas  
Easterseals  
Easterseals Serving Southern Georgia and the Big Bend of Florida  
Epilepsy Alliance America  
Epilepsy Foundation  
Epilepsy Services of New Jersey  
Equality North Carolina  
Exceptional Family Center  
Families USA  
Family Caregiver Alliance  
Family Caregiver Alliance of Rhode Island  
Family Voices  
GEORGIA ADAPT  
Howard County Autism Society  
Human Rights Campaign  
Idaho Association of Area Agencies on Aging (I4A)  
Indiana Association of Area Agencies on Aging  
Kansas ADAPT  
Kern Down Syndrome Network  
KIIDS (Knowledge & Information about Individuals with Down Syndrome)  
Lakeshore Foundation  
Lifespan of Greater Rochester  
Lifespan Respite WA at PAVE

Little Lobbyists  
Lupus and Allied Diseases Association, Inc.  
Lutheran Services in America - Disability Network  
Maryland Respite Care Coalition  
Massachusetts Down Syndrome Congress  
MassADAPT  
Medicare Rights Center  
Mental Health Association in Michigan  
Mississippi Family Caregiver Coalition  
Missouri Association of Area Agencies on Aging  
Montana ADAPT  
Montana Lifespan Respite Coalition  
NAACP  
Nassau Suffolk Chapter of the Autism Society of America  
National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys  
National ADAPT  
National Adult Day Services Association (NADSA)  
National Asian Pacific Center on Aging (NAPCA)  
National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a)  
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities  
National Association for Home Care & Hospice  
National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs (NANASP)  
National Association of RSVP Directors (NARSVPD)  
National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services (NASDDDS)  
National Association of State Head Injury Administrators  
National Coalition for the Homeless  
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 Council  
National Health Law Program  
National MLTSS Health Plan Association  
National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
National Organization for Rare Disorders  
National Organization on Disability  
National Organizations for Rare Disorders  
National PACE Association  
National Respite Coalition  
National Senior Corps Association  
NC Association of Area Agencies on Aging  
NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice  
Network of Occupational Therapy Practitioners with Disabilities and Supporters (NOTPD)  
Nevada Lifespan Respite Care Coalition  
New Jersey Lifespan Respite Coalition  
New Mexico Caregivers Coalition  
North Central PA ADAPT

North Dakota Protection & Advocacy Project  
Northeastern IL AgeGuide  
NYS Caregiving and Respite Coalition  
Oregon State Council for Retired Citizens  
Paralyzed Veterans of America  
Paraquad  
Partners in Caregiving, LLC  
Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies  
Personal Attendant Coalition of Texas  
Public Advocacy for Kids (PAK)  
RetireSafe  
Roads to Freedom Center for Independent Living  
San Antonio ADAPT  
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)  
Social Security Works  
Sooner SUCCESS  
South Carolina ADAPT  
South Carolina Association of Area Agencies on Aging  
TASH  
Tennessee Respite Coalition  
Texas ADAPT  
The Arc of Anchorage (Alaska state chapter)  
The Arc Georgia  
The Arc Maryland  
The Arc Michigan  
The Arc New York  
The Arc of Arizona  
The Arc of California  
The Arc of Central Alabama  
The Arc of Colorado  
The Arc of Connecticut, Inc.  
The Arc of Delaware  
The Arc of Greater Pittsburgh/Achieva  
The Arc of Harrisonburg and Rockingham County  
The Arc of Florida, Inc.  
The Arc of Illinois  
The Arc of Indiana  
The Arc of Iowa  
The Arc of Massachusetts  
The Arc of Nebraska  
The Arc of New Jersey  
The Arc of New Mexico  
The Arc of North Carolina  
The Arc of Ohio  
The Arc of Oregon  
The Arc of Pennsylvania  
The Arc of Rhode Island  
The Arc of South Carolina

The Arc of Texas  
The Arc of the Mid Ohio Valley  
The Arc of Virginia  
The Arc of Washington State  
The Arc of West Virginia  
The Arc Tennessee  
The Arc of the United States  
The Arc Wisconsin  
The Coelho Center for Disability Law, Policy and Innovation  
The Family Resource Network  
The Gerontological Society of America  
The Illinois Respite Coalition  
The Kelsey  
The Starkloff Disability Institute  
TARC  
Topeka Independent Living Resource Center  
Touch the Future Inc  
Union for Reform Judaism  
United Seniors of Oregon  
United States International Council on Disabilities  
United States International Council on Disabilities  
Verde Valley Seniors in Action Coalition aka Northern Arizona Seniors in Action Coalition  
Virginia Association of Area agencies on Aging  
Washington Association of Area Agencies on Aging  
Williams Syndrome Association  
WomenHeart: The National Coalition for Women with Heart Disease  
World institute on Disability