

President Joe Biden
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

March 22, 2022

Dear President Biden:

We deeply appreciate all you are doing to lift the need to invest in Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS), including expressing your support in your State of the Union Address for investing in Home and Community-Based Services and reforming Long-Term Services and Supports.

We are so grateful to your continued support for the \$150 billion investment in HCBS. As you know, a large investment is essential for building a sustainable HCBS infrastructure that can begin to address the magnitude of need in our communities. This investment will both increase access to Medicaid HCBS and help address the direct care workforce crisis--creating more direct care jobs to support people with disabilities, including children, and aging adults, and making those jobs better.

To address the long-standing inequities the pandemic exposed and exacerbated, this investment is critical to fortify a workforce that must continue to expand to meet a rapidly increasing level of need. The HCBS workforce provides vital services, and yet these workers--who are primarily women of color--have been devalued and underpaid for decades, leading to severe staff shortages that result in crucial gaps in service availability, lengthy waiting lists, service line closures, and additional obstacles to achieving a high quality of life for workers and recipients alike.

When older adults who want to age in place and people with disabilities who need support to work, live independently, and be a part of their communities are left waiting, the responsibility for care and support often falls on unpaid family caregivers, who also need financial assistance. The costs of this inadequate system fall disproportionately on people of color with limited income and wealth. The workforce and earnings losses related to unpaid family caregiving are significant and well-documented. Home and community-based services are also more cost effective and what people want, so it is a win/win for families and state and federal governments.

We once again thank you for your leadership and urge that you continue to include and prioritize the large investment in Medicaid HCBS, and the workforce that provides them, as you negotiate any package moving forward. We stand ready to assist you in any way we can. To that end, the undersigned advocacy organizations representing millions of constituents across the country, thank you again and stand ready to work to ensure these HCBS investments become law. If you have any questions feel free to contact Nicole Jorwic, nicole@caringacross.org

Sincerely,

AARP

Access Ready

Aging Life Care Association

Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program

Alzheimer's Association

Alzheimer's Impact Movement (AIM)

American Academy of Pediatrics

American Association of People with Disabilities

American Association on Health and Disability

American Civil Liberties Union

American Council of the Blind

American Federation of Teachers

American Geriatrics Society

American Muslim Health Professionals (AMHP)

American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR)

American Society on Aging

American Therapeutic Recreation Association

Amputee Coalition

Arizona Center for Disability Law

Arkansas Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities

Asset Building Strategies

Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE)

Association of University Centers on Disabilities

Autism Speaks

Autistic Self Advocacy Network

Autistic Women & Nonbinary Network

Bazon Center for Mental Health Law

Be a Hero

California Advocates for Nursing Home Reform
California Alliance for Retired Americans
California Down Syndrome Advocacy Coalition
California Foundation for Independent Living Centers (CFILC)
California State Independent Living Council (SILC)
Caring Across Generations
Carolina Institute for Developmental Disabilities
Center for Advocacy for the Rights and Interests of the Elderly (CARIE)
Center for Public Representation
Chamorro-Carolinian Language Policy Commission
Child & Family Service
Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation
Coalition of Texans with Disabilities
Coalition of Health Services- Uniting Parents
Coalition on Human Needs
CommunicationFIRST
Community Access Center
Community Catalyst
Community Legal Aid Society, Disabilities Law Program
Community Options
CRIL
Designer Genes of North Dakota, Inc
Disability Rights Iowa
Disability Law Center of Alaska
Disability Law Center of Massachusetts
Disability Law Center of Utah
Disability Rights Arkansas
Disability Rights Center - NH
Disability Rights Center of Kansas
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund (DREDF)
Disability Rights Louisiana
Disability Rights Maine
Disability Rights Nebraska
Disability Rights New Jersey
Disability Rights Oregon
Disability Rights Rhode Island
Disability Rights Texas
Disability Rights South Carolina
DISABILITY RIGHTS MISSISSIPPI
Down Syndrome Alabama

Down Syndrome Connection of the Bay Area
Down Syndrome Innovations
DSAW
Easterseals
Epilepsy Foundation
Faith in Public Life
Florida Health Justice Project
Foundation Plus
FSL
Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities
Grand Rapids Home for Veterans
Hand in Hand: The Domestic Employers Network
Health Care Voices
Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities
Indiana Disability Rights
Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council
Jewish Family and Children's Service of Greater Philadelphia
Jewish Family Service of Greater Dallas
Jewish Family Service St. Paul
Jewish Federation of Chicago
Justice in Aging
JVS+Kadima
Kentucky Protection and Advocacy
Lakeshore Foundation
LeadingAge
LIFE ElderCare
LifeLong Medical Care
Little Lobbyists
Little Lobbyists
Long Beach Gray Panthers
Itcop
Lutheran Services in America-Disability Network
Main Street Alliance
Maine Developmental Disabilities Council
Make It Work Nevada
Marin Center for Independent Living
Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council
Maryland Down Syndrome Advocacy Coalition
Massachusetts Down Syndrome Congress
Massachusetts Senior Action Council

Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council
Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities
MomsRising
Montgomery County Down Syndrome Interest Group (MCDSIG)
Muscular Dystrophy Association
National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys
National Association for Home care & Hospice
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities
National Association of Social Workers (NASW)
National Association of State Long Term Care Ombudsman Programs (NASOP)
National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care
National Council of Jewish Women
National Council on Aging
National Council on Independent Living
National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)
National Down Syndrome Congress
National Employment Law Project
National Health Council
National Health Law Program
National Partnership for Women & Families
National Resource Center on Domestic Violence
National Respite Coalition
National Women's Law Center
NC Equal Justice Alliance
NDSC
Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies
Nevada Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities
NH Alliance for Healthy Aging
North Dakota Protection & Advocacy Project
NTG
Our Mother's Voice
Parent
Parent Advocate
Parent of a child with special needs
Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies
patient/parent of caretaker (daughter)
People Inc
Protect TX Fragile Kids
RespectAbility
RESULTS

RESULTS DC/MD

Rolling start inc

Rolling start inc

Rolling Start, Inc. Center for Independent Living

San Francisco Senior & Disability Action

Schenectady ARC

Senior Services Coalition of Alameda County

Service Employees International Union

Silicon Valley Independent Living Center

St. Barnabas Senior Services

TASH

Texas Parent to Parent

The AIDS Institute

The Arc Michigan

The Arc Minnesota

The Arc New York

The Arc of Alabama

The Arc of Anchorage

The Arc of Buffalo County

The Arc of Central Alabama

The Arc of Central Nebraska

The Arc of Colorado

The Arc of Connecticut, Inc.

The Arc of Illinois

The Arc of Kentucky, Inc.

The Arc of Lincoln

The Arc of Nebraska

The Arc of New Mexico

The Arc of Nevada

The Arc of NJ

The Arc of Norfolk

The Arc of Ohio

The Arc of Oklahoma

The Arc of Pennsylvania

The Arc of Platte County

The Arc of South Carolina

The Arc of Texas

The Arc of the Mid Ohio Valley

The Arc of the United States

The Arc of Virginia

The Arc of Washington State
The Arc of West Virginia
The Gerontological Society of America
The Jewish Federations of North America
The Kelsey
TheCIL, Inc. (Center for Independent Living-Berkeley)
TN Council on Developmental Disabilities
UMass Boston, Gerontology Institute
Union for Reform Judaism
United Spinal Association
United State of Women
Utah Developmental Disabilities Council
VI Developmental Disabilities Council
Well Spouse Association
World Institute on Disability
WWAARC
Your Supports Your Way

Cc: Chief of Staff Ron Klaine
Director Brian Deese
Secretary Xavier Beccera,
Acting Administrator Alison Barkoff,