



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS  
WITH DISABILITIES**

December 13, 2018

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader  
United States Senate

The Honorable Chuck Schumer  
Minority Leader  
United States Senate

The Honorable Orrin Hatch  
Chairman  
Senate Finance Committee  
United States Senate

The Honorable Ron Wyden  
Ranking Member  
Senate Finance Committee  
United States Senate

The Honorable Rob Portman  
Senator  
United States Senate

The Honorable Maria Cantwell  
Senator  
United States Senate

Dear Majority Leader McConnell, Minority Leader Schumer, Chairman Hatch, Ranking Member Wyden, Senator Portman and Senator Cantwell:

The 43 undersigned members of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) Long-Term Services & Supports (LTSS) Task Force urge you to pass H.R. 7217 via unanimous consent to reauthorize the Medicaid Money Follows the Person Demonstration Project (MFP) before the end of the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress.

Reauthorizing MFP is the top priority of the disability and aging communities to get done before the end of the 115<sup>th</sup> Congress. Beyond the potential harms to persons with disabilities and older adults that would occur if MFP was not reauthorized, we also anticipate disruption, confusion, and new administrative burdens on states.

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.

As the nation mourns the loss of President George H.W. Bush, we remember him for championing the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) to end, in his words, “the shameful wall of exclusion” so that “every man, woman, and child with a disability can now pass through once-closed doors into a bright new era of equality, independence, and freedom.”

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 are able to 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.

According to CMS, 12 states have already exhausted their allotted MFP funding and the remaining state MFP programs will do so as well by December 31, 2018. As a result, states are transitioning fewer individuals and the progress we have made due to MFP in supporting people with disabilities in their communities is at risk, including compromised quality of life and health outcomes for beneficiaries, key staff layoffs at the state and provider levels, and loss of badly needed state Medicaid infrastructure.

We greatly appreciate your consideration of our request. We look forward to working with you to extend MFP before the end of the year.

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 Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR)  
American Physical Therapy Association  
American Psychological Association  
American Therapeutic Recreation Association  
The 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  
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