



April 26, 2024

The Honorable Brett Guthrie
Chair
House Energy and Commerce Health
Subcommittee
2434 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Anna Eshoo
Ranking Member
House Energy and Commerce Health
Subcommittee
272 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

RE: *Legislative Proposals to Increase Medicaid Access and Improve Program Integrity*

Dear Chair Guthrie and Ranking Member Eshoo:

The American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR) appreciates the opportunity to provide a statement for the record for the hearing, *Legislative Proposals to Increase Medicaid Access and Improve Program Integrity*.

Founded more than 50 years ago, ANCOR is a national, nonprofit association representing more than 2,500 private community providers of long-term supports and services to people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD), as well as 57 state provider associations. Combined, our members support more than one million individuals with I/DD across their lifespan and are funded almost exclusively by Medicaid. Our mission is to advance the ability of our members to support people with I/DD to fully participate in their communities.

ANCOR is grateful for the work of the subcommittee in highlighting the need for increased access to Medicaid-funded long-term services and supports for people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD). ANCOR's members offer a broad range of supports to help people with I/DD live full and independent lives in their communities. The foundation of these services are the direct support professionals, who not only provide essential caregiving services, but also promote independence and community inclusion through services that range from coaching and career development to assistance in pursuing personal goals and aiding activities of daily living, such as meal preparation, medication management, and supporting communication.

The supports provided through Medicaid HCBS are threatened by a longstanding workforce crisis that has limited access to services. A 2023 survey of community providers across the country indicated that the devastating impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic and continued exodus of DSPs from the field have forced providers to stop accepting new referrals, delay the

implementation of new programs and, in too many instances, shutter existing services altogether.¹ As a result, individuals with disabilities are left without consistent access to critical support and at a higher risk for hospitalization and institutionalization.

Now, more than ever, it is critical that Congress takes action to strengthen the network of disability supports that are so necessary for people in I/DD across every community in America. In particular, ANCOR urges the subcommittee's support for legislation that ANCOR has a history of supporting, including:

- H.R. 670, the Think Differently Database Act
- H.R. 7573, the Stop Unfair Medicaid Recoveries Act
- H.R. 8107, the bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to remove certain age restrictions on Medicaid eligibility for working adults with disabilities
- H.R. 8109, the bill to amend the Deficit Reduction Act of 2005 to make permanent the Money Follows the Person rebalancing demonstration
- H.R. 8110, the bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to make permanent the State option to extend protection against spousal impoverishment for recipients of home and community-based services under Medicaid

We look forward to continuing to work with members of this subcommittee to effectuate positive policy changes to strengthen Medicaid-funded disability services. For questions or more information, please reach out to Elise Aguilar, Director of Federal Relations, at eaguilar@ancor.org.

Sincerely,



Elise Aguilar
Director of Federal Relations

¹ American Network of Community Options and Resources, *The State of America's Direct Support Workforce Crisis 2023*, available at https://www.ancor.org/wp-content/uploads/2023/12/2023-State-of-Americas-Direct-Support-Workforce-Crisis_Final.pdf.