

U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

March 26, 2025

The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy Jr.
Secretary
Department of Health and Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Kennedy,

As you begin your appointment as Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services, news is coming out about staff and budget cuts in your agency. We are worried about the future of long term care and want to ensure your agency is taking necessary steps to financially and administratively support seniors and caregivers in our country.

By the year 2050, nearly 20 percent of the United States population will be 65 or older, compared to 15 percent today. As the nation ages, experts are also contemplating what the increase in the aging population will mean for the workplace, economy, healthcare, and senior living, and what needs to be done to support seniors and the caregivers they rely upon now.

Medicaid is the primary source of payment for long-term care in America. Medicaid covers long-term services and supports (LTSS) for roughly 9.3 million older adults and people with disabilities, with roughly 700,000 of those people living in nursing homes.¹ Among people aged 65 and over, about 70 percent will need LTSS in their lifetime.² To provide this coverage, Medicaid spends about \$200 billion on all LTSS, with \$59 billion spent specifically on nursing home care.³ In addition to funding care in institutional settings, states can seek waivers through Medicaid to provide coverage of Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) which allow people to receive services in the comfort and safety of their own homes.

¹ Medicaid Long-Term Services and Support Users and Expenditures by Service Category, 2022, at: <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/long-term-servicesupports/downloads/ltss-users-expenditures-category-brief-2022.pdf>

² <https://aspe.hhs.gov/reports/what-lifetime-risk-needing-receiving-long-term-services-supports-0#:~:text=Our%20results%20show%20that%2070,paid%20care%20over%20their%20lifetime.>

³ Medicaid Long-Term Services and Support Users and Expenditures by Service Category, 2022, at: <https://www.medicaid.gov/medicaid/long-term-servicesupports/downloads/ltss-users-expenditures-category-brief-2022.pdf>

House Republicans are proposing to structurally change the Medicaid program by implementing at least \$880 billion in crippling cuts. Because the proposed cuts are so severe, states will have to re-evaluate the level of services they provide. Medicaid cuts would place an enormous financial burden on older adults, people with disabilities, and their families, especially for those who have already spent down their assets and resources to qualify for Medicaid. Consumers could have to forego needed care entirely, or their family members would be forced to choose between covering their children's expenses, saving for their own retirement, or helping their loved one.

We are concerned that the administration is making decisions that will reduce access by cutting funding and thus decreasing access. The administration, as well as Congress, needs to be taking steps to expand access to these services—not lessen them.

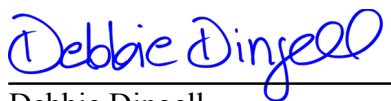
Beyond preserving robust funding for HCBS, we must prioritize the workforce that is supporting long term care patients. By improving caregiver compensation, benefits, and support systems, we must ensure the nation has a strong, qualified pipeline of workers to provide much-needed care for older adults and people with disabilities.

We remain deeply concerned that the agency will be financially constrained by the aforementioned financial cuts. To ensure that the quality of long term care facilities is not compromised, we ask the following questions to ensure the needs of our seniors are being met:

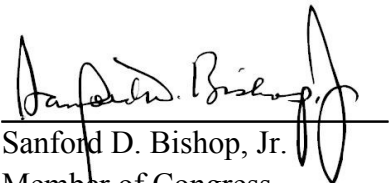
- Will you commit to ensuring that the quality of care for long term care services will not be impacted by the actions of the Trump administration?
- Have you considered how a minimum \$880 billion cut to Medicaid will impact access to LTSS?
- What is the administration's plan to support seniors who rely on LTSS?

Thank you for your action on these matters and we request responses to the questions one month after receiving this letter.

Sincerely,



Debbie Dingell
Member of Congress



Sanford D. Bishop, Jr.
Member of Congress



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



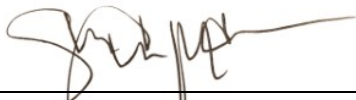
Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez
Member of Congress



Yvette D. Clarke
Member of Congress



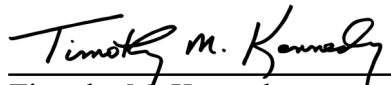
Troy A. Carter, Sr.
Member of Congress



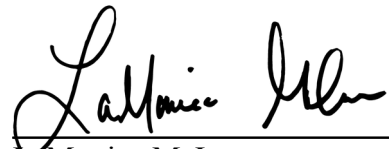
Sheila Cherfilus-McCormick
Member of Congress



Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



Timothy M. Kennedy
Member of Congress



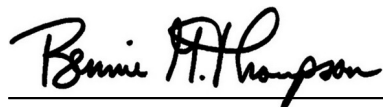
LaMonica McIver
Member of Congress



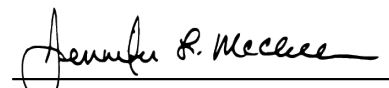
Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress



Seth Magaziner
Member of Congress



Bennie G. Thompson
Member of Congress



Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress



Lori Trahan
Member of Congress



Maxine Waters
Member of Congress



Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress



J. Luis Correa
Member of Congress



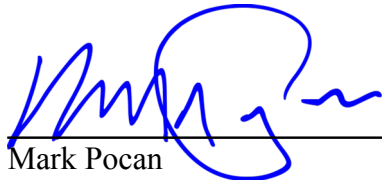
Henry C. "Hank" Johnson, Jr.
Member of Congress



Sarah McBride
Member of Congress



Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Mark Pocan
Member of Congress



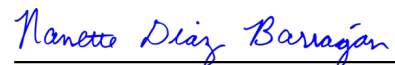
Thomas R. Suozzi
Member of Congress




Stephen F. Lynch
Member of Congress



Pramila Jayapal
Member of Congress



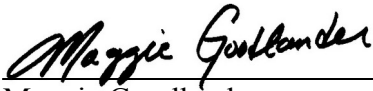
Nanette Diaz Barragan
Member of Congress



John B. Larson
Member of Congress



Andre Carson
Member of Congress



Maggie Goodlander
Member of Congress



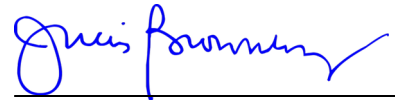
James P. McGovern
Member of Congress



Rashida Tlaib
Member of Congress



Chris Pappas
Member of Congress



Julia Brownley
Member of Congress