



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

January 17, 2020

Senator Rob Portman
U.S. Senate
448 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Bob Casey
U.S. Senate
393 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Portman and Senator Casey:

The undersigned members of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) Long-Term Services & Supports (LTSS) Task Force write to express our support for the SENIOR CARE Act (S 3010). We thank you for introducing this legislation, which would remove the upper age limit, currently age 64, for people with disabilities who wish to buy-into Medicaid. This legislation recognizes the dignity of work for all Americans, including people with disabilities, as well as the importance for people with disabilities to be independent and participate in society on their own terms.

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.

People with disabilities who wish to work should be able to do so as long as they choose without having to either sacrifice Medicaid coverage or their jobs. While Medicaid Buy-In (MBI) allows people with disabilities to work, earn a small income and to buy into the Medicaid program by paying a premium, it is currently capped for people under age 64. Removing this cap will allow people with disabilities over the age of 64 who wish to continue to contribute to society by working to do so without losing essential benefits and supports. Medicaid covers the vast majority of supports for people with disabilities in the United States. We are grateful for your championship of this issue, which will make a meaningful difference for individuals who find joy in work.

We look forward to continuing to work with to pass this critical legislation.

Sincerely,

Allies for Independence
American Association of People with Disabilities (AAPD)
American Association on Health and Disability
American Association on Intellectual and Developmental Disabilities
American Network of Community Options & Resources (ANCOR)
American Speech-Language-Hearing Association
American Therapeutic Recreation Association
The Arc of the United States

Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE)
Autism Society of America
Autistic Self Advocacy Network
Brain Injury Association of America
Center for Public Representation
CommunicationFIRST
Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund
Easterseals
Epilepsy Association
The Jewish Federations of North America
Justice in Aging
Lutheran Services in America - Disability Network
National Alliance on Mental Illness
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities
National Council on Independent Living
National Disability Rights Network
National Down Syndrome Congress
National Health Law Program
National Respite Coalition
Paralyzed Veterans of America

Cc: Finance Committee Chair Chuck Grassley
Finance Committee Ranking Member Ron Wyden