

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

August 9, 2021

The Honorable Charles Schumer
Senate Majority Leader
United States Senate
The Capitol, S-230
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bernard Sanders
Chairman
Committee on the Budget
624 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Ron Wyden
Chairman
Committee on Finance
219 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Majority Leader Schumer, Chairman Sanders and Chairman Wyden:

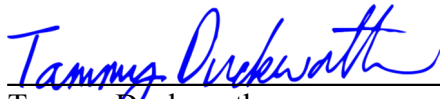
When running for President, then-candidate Joe Biden unveiled a comprehensive plan to clear the Medicaid home and community-based services (HCBS) waiting list over the next decade. This list has grown to exceed more than 800,000 Americans, who are eligible for, but unable to access, HCBS under Medicaid because States lack resources to provide robust home and community care under the current Medicaid system. Upon entering office, President Biden followed through on his commitment by unveiling a bold American Jobs Plan (AJP) that contained a flagship proposal calling on Congress "...to put \$400 billion toward expanding access to quality, affordable home- or community-based care for aging relatives and people with disabilities."

President Biden's proposed Medicaid HCBS expansion would create good, middle-class, caregiving jobs with benefits and the free and fair choice to join a union – while strengthening compensation and worker rights for the existing home and community-based care workforce, which is primarily comprised of women of color. At a July 26, 2021 celebration of the 31st Anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act, President Biden reiterated his call for Congress to provide \$400 billion to expand Medicaid HCBS and expressed his strong support for the Better Care Better Jobs Act, which would implement the vision contained in the AJP proposal.

As a strong supporter of President Biden's AJP, I urge the Senate Committees on the Budget and Finance to heed President Biden's request by including \$400 billion over 10 years for Medicaid HCBS expansion in the final package of legislation that will be developed pursuant to the reconciliation instructions accompanying the forthcoming fiscal year 2022 budget resolution. Ten years of funding will provide States with the certainty they require to commit to expanding Medicaid HCBS, while \$400 billion will make sure Medicaid HCBS expansion delivers high-quality services and raise wages and benefits for home health workers.

President Biden's call to transform our Nation's home and community-based care economy is supported by the disability, labor and aging communities – and this vital coalition is counting on Senate Democrats to transform the President's promise into a reality nationwide. We have a historic opportunity to work with the Biden administration to make sure that our aging loved ones and Americans with disabilities are empowered to make the choice of receiving high quality care services through Medicaid in the comfort of their home, in their local communities or from family members if that is how they wish to thrive.

Sincerely,



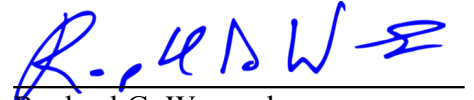
Tammy Duckworth
United States Senator



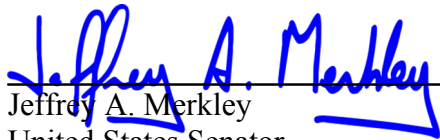
Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator



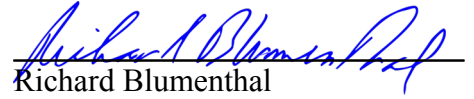
Kirsten Gillibrand
United States Senator



Raphael G. Warnock
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley
United States Senator



Richard Blumenthal
United States Senator