

August 12, 2021

On August 11<sup>th</sup>, the Senate passed the \$3.5 trillion budget resolution for fiscal year (FY) 2022. The budget resolution allows the Senate to move forward in developing the reconciliation package, with committees given until September 15<sup>th</sup> to develop legislation per the reconciliation instructions.

The reconciliation instructions provide a pathway for funding for home-and community-based services (HCBS). As you well know, COVID-19 has caused increased demand for HCBS across the country. While Medicaid beneficiaries, particularly seniors and individuals with disabilities, increasingly desire to receive services in their home and community, nearly 850,000 people are on waiting lists for HCBS. This is due to a persistent under-funding of HCBS services, forcing states to choose how to most effectively and efficiently deliver health care services to vulnerable populations.

This reconciliation package represents a promising new opportunity to drastically increase funding for HCBS services, meaning access to services would greatly increase.

### **WE MUST ACT!**

While President Biden's called for investing \$400 billion in HCBS over the next decade, lawmakers may consider reducing the figure below what is needed to fund an effective program. As lawmakers consider this proposal, it is critical that we make our voices heard to underscore the importance of this \$400 billion investment.

**Allies for Independence and its Board and Member Organizations must urge the populations they serve to advocate for the need for the inclusion of \$400 Billion in HCBS Funding in the upcoming Reconciliation Package.**

### **TAKE ACTION!**

Contact Your Senators by ***calling the Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121***. A switchboard operator will connect you directly with the Senate office you request. Urge Support for \$400B in HCBS Funding in Reconciliation Package.

### **Optional Talking Points:**

- Congress should stand with President Biden and support the \$400B investment in HCBS. This funding is desperately needed to improve the availability of HCBS and improve the quality of care received by both the aging and disability populations.
- Without this funding, millions of people will be forced to wait to receive services in their home and community, potentially leading to worse health outcomes.

- Enhanced HCBS funding would greatly support seniors and individuals with disabilities who wish to remain in the home and community.
- This increased funding for HCBS would also provide a boost to the workforce, especially direct support professionals who would receive increased pay and competitive benefits.

**Tweet Your Support/Post on Facebook:**

- Congress must act to ensure our most vulnerable get the home and community based services they need to live at home and participate in their communities. #AlliesforHCBS #CareCantWait #BetterCareBetterJobsAct
- Did you know --- Today, 14 million Americans need LTSS, a figure that is expected to more than double by 2050. #AlliesforHCBS #CareCantWait
- 76% of adults aged 50 and older want to stay at home and in their communities as they age. We must support their choices. Support #AlliesforHCBS because #CareCantWait.

**Include Hashtags!**

- **#AlliesforHCBS**
- **#HCBS**
- **#BetterCareBetterJobsAct**
- **#CareCantWait**
- **#Disability**
- **#Aging**