Dear President Biden:

We deeply appreciate all you are doing to lift the need to invest in Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS), including expressing your support in your State of the Union Address for investing in Home and Community-Based Services and reforming Long-Term Services and Supports.

We are so grateful to your continued support for the $150 billion investment in HCBS. As you know, a large investment is essential for building a sustainable HCBS infrastructure that can begin to address the magnitude of need in our communities. This investment will both increase access to Medicaid HCBS and help address the direct care workforce crisis--creating more direct care jobs to support people with disabilities, including children, and aging adults, and making those jobs better.

To address the long-standing inequities the pandemic exposed and exacerbated, this investment is critical to fortify a workforce that must continue to expand to meet a rapidly increasing level of need. The HCBS workforce provides vital services, and yet these workers--who are primarily women of color--have been devalued and underpaid for decades, leading to severe staff shortages that result in crucial gaps in service availability, lengthy waiting lists, service line closures, and additional obstacles to achieving a high quality of life for workers and recipients alike.

When older adults who want to age in place and people with disabilities who need support to work, live independently, and be a part of their communities are left waiting, the responsibility for care and support often falls on unpaid family caregivers, who also need financial assistance. The costs of this inadequate system fall disproportionately on people of color with limited income and wealth. The workforce and earnings losses related to unpaid family caregiving are significant and well-documented. Home and community-based services are also more cost effective and what people want, so it is a win/win for families and state and federal governments.
We once again thank you for your leadership and urge that you continue to include and prioritize the large investment in Medicaid HCBS, and the workforce that provides them, as you negotiate any package moving forward. We stand ready to assist you in any way we can. To that end, the undersigned advocacy organizations representing millions of constituents across the country, thank you again and stand ready to work to ensure these HCBS investments become law. If you have any questions feel free to contact Nicole Jorwic, nicole@caringacross.org

Sincerely,

AARP
Access Ready
Aging Life Care Association
Alabama Disabilities Advocacy Program
Alzheimer's Association
Alzheimer's Impact Movement (AIM)
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Association of People with Disabilities
American Association on Health and Disability
American Civil Liberties Union
American Council of the Blind
American Federation of Teachers
American Geriatrics Society
American Muslim Health Professionals (AMHP)
American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR)
American Society on Aging
American Therapeutic Recreation Association
Amputee Coalition
Arizona Center for Disability Law
Arkansas Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities
Asset Building Strategies
Association of People Supporting Employment First (APSE)
Association of University Centers on Disabilities
Autism Speaks
Autistic Self Advocacy Network
Autistic Women & Nonbinary Network
Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
Be a Hero
Down Syndrome Connection of the Bay Area
Down Syndrome Innovations
DSAW
Easterseals
Epilepsy Foundation
Faith in Public Life
Florida Health Justice Project
Foundation Plus
FSL
Georgia Council on Developmental Disabilities
Grand Rapids Home for Veterans
Hand in Hand: The Domestic Employers Network
Health Care Voices
Idaho Council on Developmental Disabilities
Indiana Disability Rights
Iowa Developmental Disabilities Council
Jewish Family and Children's Service of Greater Philadelphia
Jewish Family Service of Greater Dallas
Jewish Family Service St. Paul
Jewish Federation of Chicago
Justice in Aging
JVS+Kadima
Kentucky Protection and Advocacy
Lakeshore Foundation
LeadingAge
LIFE ElderCare
LifeLong Medical Care
Little Lobbyists
Little Lobbyists
Long Beach Gray Panthers
ltcop
Lutheran Services in America-Disability Network
Main Street Alliance
Maine Developmental Disabilities Council
Make It Work Nevada
Marin Center for Independent Living
Maryland Developmental Disabilities Council
Maryland Down Syndrome Advocacy Coalition
Massachusetts Down Syndrome Congress
Massachusetts Senior Action Council
Michigan Developmental Disabilities Council
Minnesota Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities
MomsRising
Montgomery County Down Syndrome Interest Group (MCDSIG)
Muscular Dystrophy Association
National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys
National Association for Home care & Hospice
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities
National Association of Social Workers (NASW)
National Association of State Long Term Care Ombudsman Programs (NASOP)
National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care
National Council of Jewish Women
National Council on Aging
National Council on Independent Living
National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)
National Down Syndrome Congress
National Employment Law Project
National Health Council
National Health Law Program
National Partnership for Women & Families
National Resource Center on Domestic Violence
National Respite Coalition
National Women's Law Center
NC Equal Justice Alliance
NDSC
Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies
Nevada Governor's Council on Developmental Disabilities
NH Alliance for Healthy Aging
North Dakota Protection & Advocacy Project
NTG
Our Mother's Voice
Parent
Parent Advocate
Parent of a child with special needs
Partnership for Inclusive Disaster Strategies
patient/parent of caretaker (daughter)
People Inc
Protect TX Fragile Kids
RespectAbility
RESULTS
RESULTS DC/MD
Rolling start inc
Rolling start inc
Rolling Start, Inc. Center for Independent Living
San Francisco Senior & Disability Action
Schenectady ARC
Senior Services Coalition of Alameda County
Service Employees International Union
Silicon Valley Independent Living Center
St. Barnabas Senior Services
TASH
Texas Parent to Parent
The AIDS Institute
The Arc Michigan
The Arc Minnesota
The Arc New York
The Arc of Alabama
The Arc of Anchorage
The Arc of Buffalo County
The Arc of Central Alabama
The Arc of Central Nebraska
The Arc of Colorado
The Arc of Connecticut, Inc.
The Arc of Illinois
The Arc of Kentucky, Inc.
The Arc of Lincoln
The Arc of Nebraska
The Arc of New Mexico
The Arc of Nevada
The Arc of NJ
The Arc of Norfolk
The Arc of Ohio
The Arc of Oklahoma
The Arc of Pennsylvania
The Arc of Platte County
The Arc of South Carolina
The Arc of Texas
The Arc of the Mid Ohio Valley
The Arc of the United States
The Arc of Virginia
The Arc of Washington State
The Arc of West Virginia
The Gerontological Society of America
The Jewish Federations of North America
The Kelsey
TheCIL, Inc. (Center for Independent Living-Berkeley)
TN Council on Developmental Disabilities
UMass Boston, Gerontology Institute
Union for Reform Judaism
United Spinal Association
United State of Women
Utah Developmental Disabilities Council
VI Developmental Disabilities Council
Well Spouse Association
World Institute on Disability
WWAARC
Your Supports Your Way

Cc: Chief of Staff Ron Klain
Director Brian Deese
Secretary Xavier Beccera,
Acting Administrator Alison Barkoff,