**Community Living**

Plain Language Talking Points

***NOT FOR DISTRIBUTION***

**What is the problem?**

* The wait lists to get Medicaid-funded community services are too long.
* People waiting for services do not have help if they do not want to live in nursing homes or institutions.
* Direct support workers need to be paid well.
* Programs can’t find enough direct support workers and afford to pay them what they need to keep them.
* There is not enough housing that people can afford.

**Why it matters to me:**

* I value my (or my loved one’s) ability to live in the community, near friends and family with help when they need it.
* My loved ones and I deserve access to community programs without incredibly long wait lists.
* We want to be able to pay workers enough so they can continue to work with people with disabilities.
* I want to live somewhere that I can be safe, happy, healthy, and as independent as possible.

**What should Congress do?**

* Congress should invest in more HCBS programs and services and pay workers better wages.
* Congress should make HCBS services for all and end waiting lists.
* Congress should make the Money Follows the Person program forever in the law.
* Congress should increase funding for housing.