**COMMUNITY LIVING**

Plain Language Talking Points

***NOT FOR DISTRIBUTION***

**What is the problem?**

* People with disabilities want to stay in their communities and receive support through “Home and Community Based Services (HCBS)” instead of being placed in an institution. Yet, Medicaid only mandates nursing home coverage.
* Over 690,000 individuals are on waitlists for HCBS today. Low direct care worker wages means that many people do not get services. Many people must depend on family caregivers who must leave their jobs, often causing major economic distress to the family.

**Why it matters to me:**

* I am (or my child/sibling/friend is) a person with a disability that requires these supports and services to stay independent in the community.

**What should Congress do?**

* **To increase access to HCBS, please support:**
  + The HCBS Relief Act (S. 3118/H.R. 6296), which provides a temporary funding boost to the program for two years.
  + The HCBS Access Act (S. 762/H.R. 1493), which mandates HCBS in Medicaid, ending the institutional bias.
  + The Better Care Better Jobs Act (S. 100/H.R. 547), which provides a $300 billion boost in federal funds for HCBS.