

Call, Write or Email Your Senators—Ask them to Boost Funds for Home Care

For many well spouses, Medicaid-funded long-term care at home is a vital lifeline, enabling us to provide care for ill spouses at home and keep them out of nursing homes. But this program is so under-funded that more than 800,000 people around the country who meet Medicaid's stringent medical and financial eligibility requirements currently are on waiting lists to receive home care. This places a huge burden on families and forces many people into nursing homes.

The House of Representatives voted in 2021 to provide \$150 billion in additional funding for Medicaid home care over the next ten years. These additional funds would go a long way toward reducing home care waiting lists. The House-passed measure would also make permanent the federal spousal impoverishment protections for Medicaid home care.

Senate action on increased funding for Medicaid home care is badly needed and long overdue. The Well Spouse Association has joined hands with more than 200 other organizations representing seniors, persons with disabilities, family caregivers, direct care workers and other allies to call on Senate leadership to provide more funding for Medicaid long-term care at home in its next legislative package: <https://bit.ly/3NpYCme>

But our Senators also need to hear directly from us. Please don't delay. Please call, write and/or email your Senators and urge them to pass an increase in Medicaid home care funding sufficient to eliminate waiting lists.

Please consider telling your Senators your own compelling caregiver story. And consider telling them this as well:

- Many persons who need long-term care due to chronic illness or disability would greatly prefer to remain in their own homes and receive care at home, rather than in a nursing home or other long-term care facility. Their families often want them to stay at home as well.

- But many people cannot afford the high cost of long-term care at home. Family caregivers spend on average 26% of their annual income on caregiving expenses.
- Funding for home care is so inadequate that more than 800,000 people around the country who meet Medicaid's stringent medical and financial home care eligibility rules currently are on waiting lists to receive home care.
- The cost of care to the government is also far less at home in most cases than in a nursing home.
- Surveys show that increased funding for home care is very popular with the American public, across the political spectrum. One survey last year of 1,400 voters age 50 and older found that 87% supported increasing resources for in-home care, including 82% of Republicans, and another survey of 800 people age 18 and older found that 89% of Americans support an increased public investment in affordable home care services. In fact, according to Justice in Aging, adequate funding for long-term care is the most popular provision in the investment package being considered by Congress.
- The current system which under-funds home care forces many people into nursing homes, and forces many others to stay in nursing homes when they would prefer to receive care at home.

Click [here](#) for a sample email or letter and [here](#) for telephone talking points that you can use when contacting your Senators. Click [here](#) to find their phone numbers and email addresses, as well as helpful tips on how to make your calls and emails most effective.

For more information from *Justice in Aging* on funding for home care, see:

- Fact Sheet: Key Principles for Advocates When Talking About Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS): <https://justiceinaging.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/02/HCBS-Messaging-Fact-Sheet-1.pdf>
- Polling on investment package showing strong support for HCBS: <https://www.dataforprogress.org/blog/2022/5/3/voters-coverwhelmingly->

[support-bidens-investment-package?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=fc36cb1b-ff3c-480f-bc39-690d7d7ba051](#)

- Webinar: How to Advocate for and Talk About Home and Community-Based Services: [https://justiceinaging.org/free-webinar-how-to-advocate-for-and-talk-about-home-and-community-based-services/?eType=EmailBlastContent&eld=fc36cb1b-ff3c-480f-bc39-690d7d7ba051](#)