

# United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 13, 2023

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin  
Chair  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education and Related Agencies  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito  
Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human  
Services, Education and Related Agencies  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Baldwin and Ranking Member Capito:

As you and your colleagues work on the fiscal year (FY) 2024 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (LHHS) appropriations bill, we respectfully request that you include \$30 million for housing-based models of care through the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation (CMMI) to expand or adapt evidence-based, existing population health models serving older adults and adults with disabilities. This request aims to further President Biden's goal of increasing access to mental and physical health care services, bringing down medical costs for low- and moderate-income Americans, and creating greater health care equity. Our request also reflects the mission of CMMI to find new ways to pay for and deliver better care at reduced costs for all Americans, and to improve health outcomes by addressing the root causes of poor health.

Housing-based care management models—including Support and Services at Home (SASH®), a model pioneered in Vermont and under development in other states—play an important role in ensuring that seniors and people with disabilities can lead independent, healthy, and fulfilling lives. This is achieved by utilizing publicly-assisted housing sites operated by non-profits as population health sites, allowing providers to serve large numbers of high need individuals. Specifically, SASH connects low-income residents of affordable housing who have high health care costs with a network of community partners in aging services and home health, mental health and primary care, allowing participants to access holistic health and wellness care at home. Through consistent partnering with SASH participants, staff and community partners can ensure proper medication usage, successful hospital discharges, reduced or avoided nursing home placement, coordination and continuity of care, and an overall higher quality of life.

Furthermore, housing-based care management programs are proven to save participants and the Federal government money. A five-year study by the Department of Health and Human Services released in July 2019 found that housing-based care management programs can reduce the rates

of growth in Medicare and Medicaid expenditures. For example, SASH saved \$3,671 in Medicare and Medicaid spending per participant per year in urban areas in 2022 dollars.

These population health models play a critical role in advancing health equity. Living independently can be particularly difficult for low-income seniors and those with disabilities. Medicare and Medicaid beneficiaries residing in subsidized housing are more likely to have additional chronic health conditions, more frequent visits to the emergency room, and higher health care expenditures. Housing-based care management models increase primary care access for low-income Medicare beneficiaries and benefit those living in any type of publicly assisted housing, or in communities experiencing chronic health conditions, significant health disparities, and in need of preventive health programs.

We urge you to prioritize older adults and people with disabilities by investing in proven housing-based care management models that greatly benefit these populations. By investing in these models, we can expand access to holistic and affordable health care for all, while saving money in the process.

We look forward to working with you and appreciate your consideration of our request for \$30 million for housing-based care management models through CMMI.

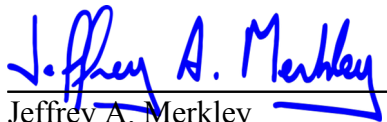
Sincerely,



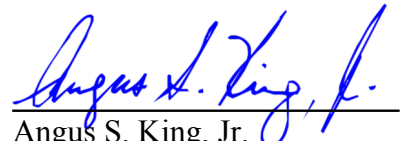
Bernard Sanders  
United States Senator



Cory A. Booker  
United States Senator



Jeffrey A. Merkley  
United States Senator



Angus S. King, Jr.  
United States Senator



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Dianne Feinstein  
United States Senator



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Jack Reed  
United States Senator



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Richard Blumenthal  
United States Senator



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Elizabeth Warren  
United States Senator



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Raphael Warnock  
United States Senator



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Peter Welch  
United States Senator



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Alex Padilla  
United States Senator



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Sheldon Whitehouse  
United States Senator



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Christopher S. Murphy  
United States Senator



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Chris Van Hollen  
United States Senator

*Bob Casey*

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Robert P. Casey, Jr.  
United States Senator

*Edward J. Markey*

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Edward J. Markey  
United States Senator