



March 14, 2024

The Honorable Bill Cassidy
520 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Thomas Carper
513 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Cornyn
517 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bob Menendez
528 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tim Scott
104 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mark Warner,
703 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Cassidy, Carper, Cornyn, Menendez, Scott and Warner:

LeadingAge is writing to offer its support of The Delivering Unified Access to Lifesaving Services (DUALS) Act of 2024, which would create a new title within the Social Security Act for the creation of the State Integrated Care Programs for Dual Eligible Individuals to ensure that dual eligible individuals -- those eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid benefits -- have access to an integrated set of services, providers, rules and payments that ease navigation in addressing their health care and social needs. The Act would also preserve and expand the Program for All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly to all states to ensure all dual eligibles have this successful model as an option.

Today, dual eligibles are faced with navigating the labyrinth of Medicare and Medicaid which is more complicated, less clear and often does not deliver an integrated experience. In 2018, we shared our [vision](#) for integrated service delivery for an aging population. We are pleased to see many of our recommendations contained within the legislation, such as:

- A single care coordinator assigned to each beneficiary;
- A standardized health risk assessment used to identify the comprehensive needs of the individual;
- The development of a comprehensive care plan that encompasses the individual's medical, functional, behavioral, social and caregiving needs and goals, and is delivered by an interdisciplinary care team; and
- A single pooled payment to the integrated care plan that brings together Medicare and Medicaid contributions.

Each of these elements are critical to delivering an integrated experience for the individual leading to improved outcomes and better quality of life.

Further, this legislation is significant because it recognizes the unique needs of aging and disabled individuals who are dually eligible for Medicare and Medicaid and does this by first establishing a new title within the Social Security Act placing it on par with both the Medicare and Medicaid programs. It gives CMS more authority to establish, regulate, and monitor integrated care – in fact, the bill ensures dual eligibles not only have access to an integrated care model but are enrolled into such a model. This legislation will eliminate the current confusion around which program covers which service, while also permitting the integrated care plans to offer a broader set of supplemental benefits to this population regardless of chronic conditions. Finally, if passed, this legislation would also preserve and expand the Program for All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE), which is a proven, successful integrated care model that many LeadingAge members run, partner with, or are exploring.

LeadingAge is grateful for the opportunity to provide input on this legislation throughout its development. It has been rewarding to watch much of our integration vision transform into legislation, and we hope, soon, a reality for the more than 12.5 million dual eligibles in the United States. If you have any questions, please contact Nicole Fallon, Vice President of Integrated Services & Managed Care at: nfallon@leadingage.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katie Smith Sloan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Katie Smith Sloan

President and CEO

LeadingAge

LeadingAge represents more than 5,400 nonprofit and mission-driven aging services providers and other organizations that touch millions of lives every day. Alongside our members and 36 partners in 41 states, we use applied research, advocacy, education, and community-building to make America a better place to grow old. Our membership encompasses the continuum of services for people as they age, including those with disabilities. We bring together the most inventive minds in the field to lead and innovate solutions that support older adults wherever they call home. For more information visit leadingage.org.