



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS
WITH DISABILITIES**

**ACTION ALERT:
Call to Make Sure Long-Term Services and Supports
are Included in Health Care Reform**

Background:

President Obama has clearly stated that health care reform is a priority for this year. Long-term services and supports are an essential part of health care reform that must be included. The nation lacks a comprehensive national public-private system for financing and delivering long-term services and supports for individuals with disabilities and seniors.

- While over 45 million Americans do not have medical insurance, over 200 million Americans lack any insurance protection for the costs of long-term services.
- Nearly half of all funding for long-term services is provided through Medicaid that requires individuals to impoverish themselves to receive supports.
- There is an institutional bias within Medicaid that does not provide Americans with equal choice for home and community services.
- Hundreds of thousands of individuals with disabilities and their families are on waiting lists for Medicaid home and community-based services.
- There is a crisis in the availability of professionals to provide direct supports, which jeopardizes the health, safety, and ability of individuals with disabilities to be active members of society.

CCD and the Leadership Council of Aging Organizations (LCAO) have developed [joint principles on financing of long-term services and support](#). The Senate Special Committee on Aging is holding a hearing next week on long-term services. CCD and LCAO are hosting a national call-in day on March 3 to encourage Senators to include long-term services and supports in health care reform.

Call-In Information:

When: March 3 (Between 8AM and 5PM)
Call-In Number: 1-800-958-5374

You will be asked which state you are calling from and will be connected to your Senators' offices. Below is a sample script to leave a message.

Hello (state name and where you are calling from). I'm calling to ask the Senator to help make sure long-term services and supports are part of health care reform. The nation lacks a comprehensive national public-private system for financing and delivering long-term services and supports for individuals with disabilities and seniors. We need a national solution for this national problem. Please ensure long-term services and supports are included in upcoming hearings and legislation. Thank you.