

# BETTER CARE BETTER JOBS ACT

## (S. 2210)

### “WHAT THEY ARE SAYING”

- **New America**, Anne-Marie Slaughter, CEO: “Today’s bill is an important step toward recognizing the vital value of care work as essential to a healthy society and a prosperous economy. It is also a statement about who we really are as a society when it comes to caring for the frail and vulnerable among us.”
- **New Practice Lab, New America**, Tara McGuinness, Founder: “We need to value and invest, not just in care infrastructure, but in care workers. By pairing investments of Medicaid dollars for home-based care with incentives for states to increase wages and create home-care authorities Congress could create and grow good jobs in a sector that has doubled in size over the past 10 years and is expected to add 1.8 million new jobs by 2028.”
- **New America**, Cecilia Muñoz, Senior Advisor, former White House Domestic Policy Council Director: “This bill is a mission critical step toward driving up wages and creating new jobs for over 1 million workers, most of whom are women and people of color. This is a hugely important development.”
- **Catholic Charities USA**, Sr. Donna Markham OP, PhD, President & CEO: “Catholic Charities USA welcomes the introduction of the Better Care Better Jobs Act (S. 2210) to help seniors and persons with disabilities receive the quality care they deserve. The Act serves to promote the life and dignity of some of the most vulnerable people in our communities. The Better Care Better Jobs Act envisions a future wherein seniors and persons with special needs obtain critical services in a home-based setting. These assist persons in improving their physical and mental health without threatening their financial security. The bill’s creative funding increases employment opportunities for thousands of essential workers who skillfully and compassionately care for our loved ones.”
- **New York University**, Sherry Glied, Dean: “This is the rare program that can at once benefit three different constituencies. Aged and disabled Americans will benefit from access to high quality services, families will be relieved of caregiving burdens and caregivers will see their wages and benefits improve.”

**Labor:**

- **SEIU**, Mary Kay Henry, International President: “The Better Care, Better Jobs Act is a huge step forward in our fight for economic and racial justice. With this legislation, we have a unique opportunity to make enormous gains for the Black, Latina, Asian and immigrant women who do the majority of care work in our nation.”
- **National Domestic Workers Alliance**, Ai-jen Poo, Executive Director: “The Better Care Better Jobs Act ensures that more of us will have access to home- and community-based care and services, and it will strengthen our caregiving workforce in ways that are so long overdue.”
- **Center for American Progress**, Karla Walter, Senior Director, Employment Policy: “Every day, home care workers perform vital tasks that allow aging Americans and Americans with disabilities to fully participate in the economy and society. Yet home care workers, the majority of whom are women of color, are often paid poverty wages and receive few benefits. The Better Care Better Jobs Act would boost care workers’ wages, while also strengthening their opportunities to use their voice to drive change on the job and expanding training opportunities. Along with other care infrastructure policies such as child care and paid family and medical leave, the provisions of the Better Care Better Jobs Act are a vital component of building a stronger, more equitable country and must be enacted as part of Congress’ economic recovery efforts.”
- **Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregivers**, Jennifer Olsen, Chief Executive Officer: “The Better Care Better Jobs Act provides increased funding for Medicaid’s Home and Community Based Services (HCBS) program and downstream funding for caregiver support programs. We applaud the requirement that states adopt HCBS quality measures and hope to see states respond positively to incentives for expanding supports for family caregivers, such as respite care.”

#### **Disability:**

- **The Arc of the United States**, Peter Berns, CEO: “We are desperately overdue for a huge investment in disability services. The Better Care Better Jobs Act introduced today will be a game-changer and must be enacted quickly for the disability community to be a part of our economic recovery from this disastrous pandemic.”
- **Little Lobbyists**, “Little Lobbyists is supportive of the Better Care Better Jobs Act that would provide an unprecedented investment in home and community-based services. We look forward to working with Congress to strengthen the bill to support our families and to ensure all children with complex medical needs and disabilities have access to the home skilled nursing services and other supports they need to survive and thrive.”
- **Center for American Progress**, Mia Ives-Rublee, Director, Disability Justice Initiative: “The COVID-19 pandemic laid bare many of the dangers of congregate facilities. Expanding home- and community-based services would ensure that many disabled and

aging Americans are able to stay in their homes and participate in their communities while also getting the care they need to thrive. It would also improve the lives of disabled care workers, with increases in pay and benefits. If passed, the Better Care Better Jobs Act would improve the lives of millions of disabled and aging Americans.”

- **National Council on Independent Living**, Kelly Buckland, Executive Director: “The National Council on Independent Living (NCIL) is supportive of the Better Care Better Jobs Act that would provide an unprecedented investment in home and community based services (HCBS). We look forward to working with Congress to strengthen the bill to provide needed support for the role CILs play in transitioning people out of institutional settings and improve reporting requirements in order to ensure all disabled people and older adults have access to the services and supports they need to live independent, self-directed lives.”
- **ANCOR**, Sarah Meek, Senior Director, Legislative Affairs: “The investment in the disability support system brought forth in the Better Care Better Jobs Act cannot come a moment too soon. Our current system is in crisis and on the verge of becoming a catastrophe if these workforce investments are not made...We stand ready to enthusiastically advocate to make certain that HCBS investments put forth in the Better Care Better Jobs Act become a reality.”
- **Lutheran Services in America**, Sarah Dobson, Director, Public Policy and Advocacy: “Lutheran Services in America strongly supports the Better Care Better Jobs Act (S. 2210) and its unprecedented investment in home- and community-based services (HCBS.) The bill’s permanent enhanced federal Medicaid match funding to states would allow the expansion and strengthening of these services for aging adults and people with disabilities, help eliminate the nationwide waitlist of 850,000 and, by increasing compensation and growing the supply of direct support professionals, help address the workforce crisis in this area.”
- **Human Rights Watch**, Jane Buchanan, Deputy Director, People with Disabilities and Older People: “Expanding home and community-based services is long overdue, and the devastation in nursing homes during the Covid-19 pandemic highlighted the urgency of making these services more widely available. Congress has a rare opportunity to expand access to HCBS so that older people and people with disabilities can remain in their homes and communities.”

#### **Aging:**

- **AARP**, Nancy A. LeaMond, Executive Vice President and Chief Advocacy & Engagement Officer: “During the COVID-19 pandemic, more than 184,000 Americans died in nursing homes and other long-term care facilities – more deaths than in any other setting. Our fractured and outdated long-term care system is a national disgrace. The introduction of the Better Care Better Jobs Act is an important first step toward action

that is long overdue. The vast majority of older Americans say they want to age at home. We must make investments in home and community services so older Americans are able to choose how they live as they age...”

- **Alliance of Retired Americans**, Richard Fiesta, Executive Director, “Seniors should be able to get the care they need at home, rather than in an institution, whenever that is possible,” said Richard Fiesta, executive director of the Alliance for Retired Americans. “For that to happen we need qualified care workers who are paid a living wage for their difficult work. Congress needs to pass the Better Care Better Jobs Act and get it to President Biden’s desk right away.”
- **Justice in Aging**, Kevin Prindiville, Executive Director: “The Better Care Better Jobs Act makes the necessary investments to ensure older adults can have equitable access to the services and supports they need to age in their homes and communities. Now is the time for bold investments in the care infrastructure. This bill is fundamental to mend the inequities in our long-term care system and to support the people who provide care. Justice in Aging is committed to working with Congress to enact this transformative legislation so older adults can age in dignity.”
- **National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA)**, Letha Sgritta McDowell, President: “COVID-19 has laid bare the crisis in America's nursing homes. This legislation would be an unprecedented step towards ensuring every American has the ability to age in place.”
- **LeadingAge**, Katie Smith Sloan, President: “This bill would mean better pay and benefits for care professionals, when almost half of home care worker households must currently depend on some form of public assistance and it would provide some relief for more than 40 million Americans who provide some form of unpaid caregiving for an older adult — at an average of 34 unpaid hours a week in care.”
- **National Council on Aging**, “The National Council on Aging (NCOA), the national voice for every person’s right to age well, strongly supports the legislation to improve access to Medicaid home and community-based services. The pandemic highlighted the growing and accelerating need for safer, less expensive alternatives to nursing homes and other institutional care. This legislation will help hundreds of thousands of Americans to finally obtain the home care they need, while strengthening the economy by creating new jobs with living wages and better benefits.”
- **National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare**, Max Richtman, President, CEO: “By expanding the capacity of state Medicaid programs to offer home and community based services and by improving and expanding opportunities for home care workers, the Better Care Better Jobs Act will enable millions of seniors to remain in

their own homes as they age. This is historic legislation, and it will significantly improve the quality life for mothers and fathers, aunts and uncles.”

### **Health:**

- **Healthcare Leadership Council**, Mary Greal, President: “Thank you for introducing this important legislation which would strengthen and expand access to Medicaid home and community-based services (HCBS) while also supporting stronger benefits for the workforce.”
- **Judy Feder**, Professor and former Dean, McCourt School of Public Policy, Georgetown University: “We have an opportunity, with this legislation, to remedy the gaping holes in the nation's support for people who need long-term care and the deplorable treatment of those who provide it. Let's not blow it.”
- **The Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs**, Dawn Bailey, Family Representative, Board of Directors: “The Association of Maternal & Child Health Programs (AMCHP) is proud to join with our colleagues in the disability and aging communities to endorse the Better Care Better Jobs Act and we thank Senator Casey and Congresswoman Dingell for their leadership in introducing this bill. As a parent of a child with complex medical needs, I know firsthand how important Home and Community Based Services are to allow our daughter to have the care and support she needs to live at home and be part of her community. I also know the challenges that we and many families like ours have faced with access. We need to invest in building a strong and competent provider network to support our families so that each of these individuals receive the services they are eligible for while building a workforce that values this work and the clients they serve.”
- **Families USA**, Frederick Isasi, Executive Director: “American families are already facing an inability to get home or community-based care for their loved ones, a crisis that is only going to get more acute in the coming years with the need for long-term care and services about to increase dramatically in the coming decades. The Better Care Better Jobs Act would tackle this problem by making an historic investment, supporting both seniors and people with disabilities and the overwhelmingly female workforce who care for them. Families USA is proud to support this landmark legislation and urge Congress to make sure it is part of any economic recovery package.”

### **Tweets:**

#### **Ady Barkan @AdyBarkan:**

I can't imagine being without my family – everyone who needs it should have the kind of home care that has kept us together. Today @SenBobCasey, @RonWyden & @RepDingell are changing lives with their #BetterCareBetterJobsAct – call 833-312-1833, tell Congress #CareIsEssential.

**Airport Workers United @GoodAirports:**

It's time to expand access to care for families across the country & transform home care jobs by raising wages and creating good union jobs. The Better Care Better Jobs Act is a major step forward!

Join us & call 833-312-1833 to tell Congress #CareIsEssential.

**Social Security Works @SSWorks:**

Thank you @SenBobCasey!

We need to pass the #BetterCareBetterJobsAct so that seniors and people with disabilities can live at home with dignity.

#CareIsEssential