

October 11, 2011

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

The CLASS Program was put into the Affordable Care Act because every American family faces the reality that an accident or illness requiring long-term care could devastate them financially.

The CLASS option will allow millions of citizens to plan ahead, take personal responsibility, and when the unknown strikes, not be forced to give up being a productive citizen in order to access the services they need.

In addition, CLASS can have a positive impact on the Medicaid budget by giving people the tools they need to live independently, paid for by voluntary premiums instead of taxpayer funds.

Many of the organizations below fought passionately for CLASS to be included in health reform and we applauded you for standing up for CLASS. We now ask you to keep your commitment to implementing it.

We will continue to fight passionately for the implementation of the CLASS program.

Mr. President, Congress gave you authority to make changes to the design of CLASS to make it work. We fully expect the Administration to go forward and use that authority in implementing the law.

Sincerely,

AARP

The Jewish Federations of North America

The Catholic Health Association of the United States

Easter Seals

ACCSES

Lutheran Services in America
United Cerebral Palsy (UCP)
Alliance for Retired Americans
The Daniel Jordan Fiddle Foundation
Judge David L. Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law
PHI – Quality Care through Quality Jobs
American Association for Geriatric Psychiatry
Epilepsy Foundation
Paralyzed Veterans of America
AIDS United
Housing Works, Inc.
American Association of People with Disabilities
OWL-The Voice of Midlife and Older Women
National Association for Rural Mental Health
American Counseling Association
CANN - Community Access National Network
Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs
Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD)
United Spinal Association
American Association on Health and Disability (AAHD)
The Center for Medicare Advocacy
Colorado AIDS Project
The Depression & Bipolar Support Alliance (DBSA)
Direct Care Alliance
Independent Living Center of the North Shore and Cape Ann, Inc.
Mental Health America
National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a)
Community Resources for Independent Living (CRIL)
Project Inform
National PACE Association
Center for Independent Living of South Florida, Inc.

National Coalition for Mental Health Recovery
National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare
The National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care (formerly NCCNHR)
National Disability Rights Network
Center for Independence of Individuals with Disabilities
AIDS Action Baltimore
National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA)
National Respite Coalition
American Network of Community Options and Resources
National Multiple Sclerosis Society
National Association for Home Care & Hospice Roads to Freedom Center for
Independent Living of North Central Pennsylvania
AIDS Action Committee of Massachusetts
SWCIL
National Minority AIDS Council
Sexuality Information and Education Council of the U.S. (SIECUS)
National Alliance of State & Territorial AIDS Directors (NASTAD)
American Society on Aging
Zephyr L.T.N.P. Foundation
National Association of State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs
AIDS Partnership Michigan
Legacy Community Health Services
Texas HIV/AIDS Coalition
AIDS Services Foundation Orange County
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities
AIDS Foundation of Chicago
HIV Prevention Justice Alliance (HIV PJA)
HealthHIV
Moveable Feast
Paterson Counseling Center
San Francisco AIDS Foundation

Project Open Hand, San Francisco
National MS Society
The National Association of People with AIDS (NAPWA)
VillageCare
AIDS Foundation of Chicago
Independent Living Resource Center
Options for Independent Living
Wilson Resource Center (WRC)
Guthrie Byard
HIV Dental Alliance, Atlanta, GA
Center for HIV Law and Policy
AIDS Project Los Angeles
San Francisco In-Home Supportive Services (IHSS) Public Authority
California Foundation for Independent Living Center (CFILC)
Silicon Valley Independent Living Center
Independent Living Center of Kern County
Nashville CARES
The Disability Network, Genesee County, MI.
Access Alaska
accessABILITY Center for Independent Living, Inc.
Human Rights Campaign
Cape Organization for Rights of the Disabled
Center for Health Justice
ANAC- Association of Nurse in AIDS Care
L.A. Gay & Lesbian Center
SICIL
The Albany Damien Center
National Alliance for Caregiving
Tri-County Patriots for Independent Living
Parent to Parent USA
ANAC- Association of Nurse in AIDS Care

NAMI

Partnership Project

The Arc of the United States

Services Center for Independent Living

Independent Living Resource Center, Santa Barbara

Western New York Independent Living, Inc.

Common Ground – the Westside HIV Community Center

Florida Service Dogs, Inc.

Medicare Rights Center

Disability Rights Education and Defense Fund

National Council of Jewish Women