



April 21, 2025 [DRAFT]

The Hon. Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.  
Secretary - U.S. Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, D.C. 20201

Re: Concerns on ACL Restructuring

Dear Secretary Kennedy,

On behalf of the Pennsylvania Long-Term Support Service (LTSS) Sub-Committee of the Medical Assistance Advisory Committee (MAAC), we relay our concerns on the proposed reorganization of the Administration for Community Living (ACL). Our sub-committee is comprised of participants, organizations and providers that support the Disabled and Aging populations across Pennsylvania. Our sub-committee is deeply invested health and long-term care services and supports that these populations depend on to live as independently as possible in the communities of their choice. Accordingly, system changes as proposed by HHS of this magnitude must take into consideration the impact on the individuals who use these services.

The recent announcement from the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) represents an abrupt restructuring that will have far-reaching consequences for older adults and people with disabilities. By eliminating the Administration for Community Living (ACL), this decision dismantles the significant systemic changes and improvements achieved when ACL was created to be separated out from the U.S. Department of Education designed to support our most vulnerable populations.

HHS' proposed restructuring will destabilize essential services for older adults across Pennsylvania, where over 1 million meals are served every month to seniors who rely on community-based programs to stay healthy and independent. Furthermore, individuals with intellectual and developmental disabilities will face similar challenges as this move jeopardizes critical programming provided by Developmental Disability councils, University Centers on Developmental Disabilities, and Protection and Advocacy networks across the country.

In Pennsylvania, our sixteen Centers for Independent Living and fifty-three Area Agencies on Aging are critical to supporting seniors and people with disabilities, ensuring they remain in their homes and communities rather than costly institutional care. These



organizations provide everything from meal programs to respite care for family caregivers, addressing the social isolation and health-related factors that so often threaten independence. These services are effective, efficient, and compassionate, nothing about this restructuring can be described in those terms.

This restructuring appears to be part of a broader pattern of budget driven cuts that will undermine the health and dignity of older adults and people with disabilities. The unintended consequence will drive up costs of long-term care and other services with increased use of more expensive institutional care. We implore you to meet with us, to hear our thoughts, brainstorm and achieve mutually beneficial improvements to HHS programs and services.

The Americans with Disabilities Act, signed into law by President George H.W. Bush in 1990, represented a bipartisan commitment to ensuring fairness and equal opportunity. Eliminating ACL on the other hand, threatens to undo decades of progress. The federal government should be focused on strengthening these programs, not dismantling them. We urge you and Congress to work together toward a solution that upholds our responsibility to the most vulnerable among us.

Sincerely,

Pennsylvania Long Term Support Services Subcommittee

Cc: Secretary Valerie Arkoosh, Pa Department of Human Services  
Secretary Jason Kavulich, Pa Department of Aging