



September 19, 2022

The Honorable Robert Casey
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20501

RE: S. 4273, *Supporting States in Integrating Care Act of 2022*

Dear Senator Casey:

The Dual Eligible Coalition is a multi-sector group of stakeholders including beneficiary advocates, managed care plans, provider systems, state advisors, and behavioral health and social support service organizations dedicated to the development of actionable, long-term policy and programmatic solutions to improve both care delivery and outcomes for individuals eligible for Medicare and Medicaid benefits (dual eligible individuals). For the past several years, the Coalition has worked to address challenges facing dual eligible individuals and supports legislative actions consistent with our principles.ⁱ

The Dual Eligible Coalition writes in support of the S. 4273, *The Supporting States in Integrating Care Act of 2022*. We thank you for the introduction of this legislation, which provides states with needed resources to both develop and advance integrated programs. Importantly, the legislation also includes requirements for states to describe their approach to integration, as well as provides time-limited, targeted federal resources to support specific administrative activities to advance those integration strategies.

As you well know, dual eligible individuals make up a diverse population of over 12 million Americans with complex health needs—about 8.5 million of which are eligible for full Medicaid and Medicare benefits. Individuals dually eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid have high rates of chronic illness, significant long-term care needs, as well as social risk factors to address. According to CMS, about 41 percent of dual eligible individuals have at least one mental health diagnosis, 49 percent receive long-term care services and supports (LTSS), and 60 percent have multiple chronic conditions. Further, more than half of dual eligible individuals have a disability (51 percent) compared to only 15 percent of non-dual Medicare beneficiaries.

Given the significant needs of the dual eligible population, it is critically important that states have the resources they need to ensure quality care for dual eligible individuals, as well as the resources needed to innovate in order to provide for complex care needs with integrated, high-quality services. Unfortunately, dual eligible beneficiaries still experience fragmented care far too often, and must navigate separate processes in eligibility and enrollment, grievances and appeals, separate provider networks, and differing coverage policies. States have limited capacity to address a number of these issues, due to strains on their budgets, staffs, and expertise in

coordinating care for dual eligible individuals. This bill would help to ease some of those strains, providing states with the resources they need to take steps to improve care for dual eligible individuals in their state.

The Dual Eligible Coalition commends your office on the specificity included within the bill on the uses for the available funds for states, and the requirement that states utilizing the funds provided must describe their approach to integration. There are numerous areas where states can strengthen their approach to improve dual eligible individual experiences, including in enrollment, key beneficiary protections, data tracking and interoperability, quality assessment, and addressing health equity. The funds provided through this legislation could help states to improve their approach in each of these areas.

The legislation is particularly important given the urgent need to address gaps in effectively integrating care for the dual eligible population, and is also timely, given the other regulatory and legislative reforms under consideration. As the Financial Alignment Initiative winds down in states, these funds would help to provide states with resources to transition care to other integrated options for dual eligible individuals.

We want to again express our gratitude for your leadership on policy to improve care for dual eligible individuals through the introduction of S. 4273, *Supporting States in Integrating Care Act of 2022*. As the bill continues in the legislative process, we welcome opportunities to work with your office and other members on a bipartisan basis to be a resource.

Sincerely,

The Dual Eligible Coalition

ⁱ <https://info.leavittpartners.com/dual-eligible-coalition>