

December 1, 2011



The Honorable Jan Schakowsky  
United States House of Representatives  
Rayburn House Office Building, 2367  
Washington, DC 20515-1309

Dear Representative Schakowsky:

On behalf of Advance CLASS, Inc. and the national aging and disability organizations who support CLASS, we would like to formally thank you for your vote against the legislation, H.R. 1173, to repeal the Community Living Assistance Services and Supports (CLASS) Act at yesterday's House Energy and Commerce Committee mark-up. We truly appreciate and commend you for your understanding of the need for long-term supports and services (LTSS).

In 2008, 21 million people had a condition that caused them to need help with their health and personal care. Medicare does not cover LTSS, yet about 70 percent of people over the age of 65 will require some sort of LTSS at a point in their lifetime. In addition, almost 40 percent of individuals who need services are under age 65 and LTSS can enable these individuals to work and be productive citizens in their communities.

Regardless of when individuals may need these services, there is a lack of financing options to help them plan and pay for services they need to help them live independently in their homes and communities. The CLASS program could give millions of working Americans a new option to take personal responsibility and help plan and pay for essential services they may need now or in the future. As you know, this issue affects the constituents of every U.S. Representative.

Again, we thank you for your commitment to the program and we urge continued dialogue and the development of a viable path forward.

Sincerely,

AARP

AFSCME



Alzheimer's Association

Alzheimer's Foundation of America (AFA)

American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR)

The American Society on Aging

The Arc of the United States

Association of University Centers on Disabilities (AUCD)

Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs (ATAP)

Autism National Committee (AutCom)

Autistic Self Advocacy Network

Bazelon Center for Mental Health Law

Brain Injury Association of America

California Foundation for Independent Living Centers

Council for Exceptional Children

Direct Care Alliance

Easter Seals

The Jewish Federations of North America

LeadingAge

National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a)

National Association of Professional Geriatric Care Managers

National Center for Learning Disabilities

National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare

The National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care

National Council on Aging (NCOA)

The National Council on Independent Living (NCIL)



National Disability Rights Network

National Multiple Sclerosis Society

Paralyzed Veterans of America

SEIU

United Cerebral Palsy (UCP)