



**CONSORTIUM FOR CITIZENS  
WITH DISABILITIES**

Via email (MACPACappointments@gao.gov)

January 26, 2021

Gene L. Dodaro  
Comptroller of the United States  
Government Accountability Office  
441 G St., NW  
Washington, D.C. 20548

**Re: Support for MACPAC Nominees**

Dear Comptroller Dodaro:

The Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) is the largest coalition of national organizations working together to advocate for federal public policy that ensures the self-determination, independence, empowerment, integration, and inclusion of children and adults with disabilities in all aspects of society. CCD members represent a broad range of stakeholders – people with disabilities and their families, older adults, disability service providers and workers, healthcare professionals, and state systems that provide disability services – who advocate on behalf of adults and children with all types of disabilities, including people with physical, intellectual, developmental, and mental health disabilities, chronic health conditions, and older adults.

On behalf of CCD's Long Term Services and Supports Task Force, we request that you appoint an individual with knowledge of long term services and supports (LTSS), and specifically Medicaid home- and community-based services (HCBS), to one of the vacant MACPAC seats. We note that the [statute establishing MACPAC](#) requires inclusion of "representatives of ... individuals with disabilities ..."

Medicaid is by far the [largest payer of LTSS](#), and LTSS constitutes [approximately 40%](#) of total Medicaid spending. HCBS, a type of LTSS, is an [increasingly larger proportion](#) of Medicaid spending compared to institutional LTSS. More importantly, HCBS is a

lifeline for people with disabilities, as it that allows people with disabilities to live in their own homes with their families or with whomever they choose, pursue employment opportunities, recreation, civic engagement, or other interests, and otherwise engage in all the freedoms, choices, and experiences that make for a meaningful life. HCBS services are also key to ensuring that people with disabilities are able to avoid institutional settings—which should be the utmost priority during a pandemic where [nearly 40% of deaths have been in congregate settings](#). Thus, it is essential as MACPAC moves forward that it prioritize inclusion of members that have a deep knowledge of LTSS and a deep appreciation for the importance of HCBS.

We request that you appoint at least one new member with the ability to represent the needs and interests of individuals with disabilities, and specifically users of HCBS. The following nominees (in alphabetical order) have an understanding and appreciation of the Medicaid-funded systems that support individuals with disabilities:

Joe Caldwell  
Maria A. Jones  
Sharon Lewis  
Ari Ne’eman  
Sarah Somers  
Mary Sowers  
Chris Sparks

Thank you for your consideration. If you any questions, please feel free to contact Jennifer Lav ([lav@healthlaw.org](mailto:lav@healthlaw.org)).

Sincerely,

Jennifer Lav  
National Health Law Program

Sarah Meek  
American Network of Community Options and Resources

Nicole Jorwic  
The Arc of the United States

Julia Bascom  
Autistic Self Advocacy Network

Dan Berland

National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services