



February 20, 2024

The Honorable Bill Cassidy, M.D.
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Mark Warner
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Cassidy and Warner:

On behalf of the Alliance of Community Health Plans (ACHP), thank you for your leadership to promote care coordination, improve health outcomes and advance equity for individuals who are dually eligible (Duals) for Medicare and Medicaid. We write in support of your efforts to establish integrated care programs for Duals that improve payment coordination between Medicare and Medicaid and result in better care delivery and health outcomes.

ACHP is the only national organization promoting the unique payer-provider aligned model in health care, delivering affordable, coordinated and comprehensive coverage options. Our member companies collaborate with their provider partners to deliver higher-quality coverage and care to tens of millions of Americans in nearly 40 states and D.C. Anchored in their communities, ACHP member companies deeply understand the transformative impact of an integrated system of care, in which providers, payers and community leaders work together to enhance access to services and improve health outcomes. ACHP's member companies' model of care delivery fosters greater care coordination and effectively positions our members to serve the complex needs of the Duals population.

We commend your leadership to improve care for Duals and support many provisions included in your draft legislation. ACHP supports passive enrollment for Duals into integrated health plans. We also support allowing the flexible use of Supplemental Benefits to address specific conditions. We are especially supportive of continuous eligibility for Duals. Considering the unwinding and the dearth of data on Duals, continuous eligibility is a critical step to ensure continuity of coverage for an already vulnerable population.

ACHP and its member companies look forward to working with you as the Duals Work Group seeks to finalize language. In the interim, ACHP offers the following feedback on your most recent draft.

- We support the carve-out and frailty adjustment flexibilities included in the draft legislation. We understand this provision would provide flexibilities for Highly Integrated Dual Eligible Special Need Plans (HIDE-SNPs), which is important to ensure that these offerings are not barred from providing care to Duals due to Medicaid carve-outs. As the draft evolves, we ask that you consider the impact of this provision on Coordination-Only



D-SNPs, as they may lose the ability to provide care for Duals in certain regions/states as currently proposed in the bill.

- We support improving the existing risk adjustment model to include more nuanced assessment of risk for the Duals population. If a new model is created specifically for Duals, we request additional actuarial analysis to evaluate the impact of a new model on plans operating on already small margins.
- We request directing CMS to provide ample guidance on consumer opt-out requirements for passive enrollment. Patients in institutional special needs plans, or I-SNPs, may not be aware that they have been passively enrolled and may need further guidance. Passive enrollment may also inadvertently shift some regional health plan enrollees to large national carriers. We want to ensure minimum disruption and continuity of care, ensuring patients remain with their plan of origin if their primary care provider is in-network with the existing health plan.
- Additionally, we request that the new Duals-focused Stars Rating System is at least revenue neutral, as a new system could cause significant revenue disruptions in smaller health plans.
- Finally, we request expanding the criteria for the use of Supplemental Benefits to include addressing health-related social needs. Doing so would foster more wholistic, person-centered care.

ACHP supports your draft legislation to address coverage and care for the Duals population. ACHP and our member companies are committed to working closely with you and your staff to advance improvements for the Duals population. Please contact Tricia Guay, ACHP's Director of Legislative Affairs, at tguay@achp.org or (202) 524-7752 with any questions or if we can provide further information.

Sincerely,

Dan Jones
SVP, Federal Affairs
Alliance of Community Health Plans

CC: Sen. Tom Carper
Sen. Tim Scott
Sen. Robert Menendez
Sen. John Cornyn