

The US House of Representatives is to vote on funding for MFP and spousal impoverishment protections **TODAY.**



Action Alert!

Contact Your Representative to Vote
YES for H.R. 1839 to Extend MFP
Funding and Protections for Spousal
Impoverishment for HCBS

National Association of State Head Injury Administrators

Today, the U.S. House of Representatives is scheduled to vote on H.R. 1839 to amend Title XIX of the Social Security Act to extend protection for Medicaid recipients of home and community-based services (HCBS) against spousal impoverishment; establish a State Medicaid option to provide coordinated care to children with complex medical conditions through health homes; prevent the misclassification of drugs for purposes of the Medicaid drug rebate program; and to extend funding (\$20 million) for the Money Follows the Person program. The bill is sponsored by Rep. Raul Ruiz (D-CA).

Background

The Money Follows the Person (MFP) helps people with brain injury and older adults who want to move out of nursing homes or other institutions get back into their communities. MFP has assisted more than 88,000 individuals voluntarily move into a setting of their choice. MFP has improved the lives of older adults and people with disabilities, including individuals with brain injury, saved States money, and led to better outcomes. That's why nearly every State has participated in the program! But, MFP expired September 30, 2016, and the last Congress extended funding for only three months of this year.

The spousal impoverishment protections make it possible for a spouse who qualifies for Medicaid nursing level of care to obtain home and community-based services without the remaining spouse being penalized for having assets. It allows the married spouse to retain a modest income and resources to pay rent, utilities, food and

medications while the other spouse receives long-term services and supports in the community -- same protections that a married spouse receives if the other spouse is in a nursing home.

What Can You Do?

Call your Representative to tell him/her to vote YES on H.R. 1839. Unsure how to call or email? Click [here](#) to find the number.

Easy Call Script:

Hello, this is [Name]. I'm a resident of [Town, State]. **I am calling to urge you to vote yes for H.R. 1839** to extend funding for the Money Follows the Person (MFP) program.

MFP has enabled over 88,000 older adults and people with disabilities living in institutions to transition back to their communities. MFP is fiscally responsible: it has improved the quality of life for thousands of individuals while saving States money. There are many individuals with brain injury in our State that are residing in nursing homes and other institutional type of services due to the lack of community services and supports.

The spousal impoverishment rules may prohibit a person with a working spouse from being eligible for home and community-based services. Such protections are available to a spouse eligible for nursing home services.

I am asking [Member of Congress' Name] to vote **YES for H.R. 1839.**

Thank you for taking my call!

[IF LEAVING A VOICEMAIL: please leave your full street address and zip code to ensure your call is tallied]

[Optional Add On]

Personal stories are the most effective form of advocacy. Talk about why Money Follows the Person is important for you or someone you know and love.

Please feel free to circulate among your constituents -- consumers, advisory council/board members, advocacy and disability groups.



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STAY CONNECTED:



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