



HOME AND COMMUNITY – BASED SERVICES (HCBS)  
LEGISLATIVE UPDATE

2023 – 2024

Federal Legislation: S. 762 & H.R. 1493-  
HCBS Access Act



[The HCBS Access Act \(HAA\)](#), which was introduced on March 9, 2023 to the Senate by Senator Robert Casey Jr. (D-PA) and House by Representative Debbie Dingell (D-MI-6), provides for increased access and quality for Medicaid HCBS. It would provide permanent enhanced federal funding to ensure eligible older adults and people with disabilities are able to live at home and connected to their communities by placing HCBS on equal footing as institutional care. Overtime, the bill would eliminate HCBS waiting lists and improve the direct care workforce shortage.

**Benefits of the HCBS Access Act include:**

- Eliminating the waitlist and enrollment caps for the HCBS program;
- Creating a more uniform and expansive eligibility criteria based on income and health function;
- Providing caregiver resources to allow for additional training and support, in addition to a living wage; and
- Removing the administrative barriers for continued HCBS funding by eliminating the need for states to apply for multiple waivers.

**HCBS Access Act Structure and Funding Scheme:**

The HAA would mandate states to treat HCBS as an entitlement under the Medicaid program, providing an equal right to institutional care or HCBS. Federal funding would be provided to support states for 100% of HCBS costs for 10 years.

**Current Polling Support:**

An [April 2022 survey](#) of over 1200 likely voters shows that 87% of all respondents and 85% of Republicans support federal investments in affordable long-term care for seniors and people with disabilities.

**Call to Action: Contact your Representatives**



[Florida Senators:](#) Marco Rubio (R) and Rick Scott (R)

[Florida House Representatives:](#) Enter your home address [here](#) to find out who represents your district.

Write your representatives an email by using the simple form provided by <https://democracy.io/#/> and use the email script below once you've selected which representatives you'd like to write to (we suggest writing to all of them).

Subject: HCBS Access Act

I am writing to ask you to please support the S. 762 & H.R. 1493 - Home and Community – Based Services (HCBS) Access Act introduced to Congress in March 2023 by Senator Robert Casey Jr. (D-PA) and Representative Debbie Dingell (D-MI-6). HCBS are an essential component of freedom of choice for Florida Medicaid recipients. HCBS should be placed on equal footing as institutional care and it costs the state one-third of the cost of a nursing home. Florida elders and persons with disabilities deserve to stay in their homes and connected to their community when able.

[Add a personal statement here if you have one]

I will be watching closely to see what you do to protect and expand Medicaid access and rights in Florida, and I will cast future votes accordingly. Thank you for your time and support.

Sincerely,

[Your Full Name]

[Your Address - Must be included to be accepted]

Call your representatives and use the script below to have your message recorded. Studies indicate that calling is more effective as staff must record and tally your support.

Senator Rubio's Office: (202) 224-3041

Senator Scott's Office: (202) 224-5274

To find out your House Representative's phone number, enter your zip code [here](#) and you'll be directed to your Representatives listing. Their phone number will be available on their personal website, located below their photo.

Hello, I am a constituent of [Title] [Lawmaker Name].

I'm calling to leave a message for [Title] [Lawmaker Name] to please support the Home and Community – Based Services (HCBS) Access Act introduced to Congress in March 2023 by Senator Bob Casey and Representative Debbie Dingell (D-MI-6). HCBS are an essential component of freedom of choice for Florida Medicaid recipients. HCBS should be placed on equal footing as institutional care and it costs the state one-third of the cost of a nursing home. Florida elders and persons with disabilities deserve to stay in their homes and connected to their community when able.

I will be watching closely to see what [Title] [Lawmaker Name] does to protect Medicaid access and rights, and I will cast future votes accordingly. Thank you for your time and support.

Start now and continue to write on a monthly basis, if at all possible. The more our representatives hear from us about the importance of HCBS, the more we raise awareness of how important the issue is for our community.

Track the progress of the HCBS Access Act and to see the latest action:

Senate: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/senate-bill/762?s=1&r=97>

House: <https://www.congress.gov/bill/118th-congress/house-bill/1493>