

#HCBS Day of Action, October 28th Toolkit

Congress will soon begin to make determinations on which programs will be included within the #BuildBackBetter package. Given the sheer magnitude of the package we are organizing a day of action on **Thursday, October 28** to demonstrate to Congress that there is a strong support and a huge need for robust investment in Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS).

This toolkit contains sample social media posts for the day of action and contains shareable graphics with image descriptions.

Retweet on Twitter: Relevant handles

@JusticeinAging

@TheArcUS

Day of Action - Tell Congress Care Can't Wait!

Now is the time for people with complex medical needs and disabilities, seniors, their families and friends, to be LOUD about what we need – to demand our legislators insure full funding for our families through the Better Care Better Jobs Act as part of the reconciliation bill, because Caregiving IS Infrastructure and #CareCantWait!

President Biden's American Jobs Plan, American Families Plan, and the recently introduced Better Care Better Jobs Act, present an historic opportunity to significantly improve the lives of our families and all Americans with complex medical needs and disabilities.

By recognizing that caregiving is infrastructure, investing in home and community based services (HCBS), getting eligible people off of Medicaid waiting lists, and providing better support for family caregivers and better pay for home health workers, a brighter future is within our reach ...
... we just need Congress to pass it.

The time to act is NOW! Members of Congress are currently negotiating funding for many important priorities in the reconciliation bill including health care, child care, support for the elderly and people with disabilities, and more.

Join us for a day of action to tell Congress they must include full funding for the Better Care Better Jobs Act in the budget reconciliation bill!

Here are some ways to take action NOW! –

1. Learn more about the Better Care Better Jobs Act! The BCBJA represents an historic, life changing investment in the lives of people with complex medical needs and disabilities, their families, and caregivers. If fully funded, it will support home and community-based services (HCBS) instead of institutionalization, for an additional 2.3 million people who are elderly or disabled (a 300% increase!). It will also allow 1 million informal family caregivers to return to the workforce knowing their loved

ones have the care they need, and it will create over 500,000 new, good paying, jobs for direct care workers. Check out this info sheet on the Better Care Better Jobs Act: <https://bit.ly/2XcMTCL>

2. Send your own letter! Print out our coloring page and letter template (pdf: <https://bit.ly/3C1x94L>) and customize it to let your legislators know why we need them to pass the American Jobs Plan, the American Families Plan, and the Better Care Better Jobs Act, and tell them exactly what YOUR family needs to survive and thrive. This is a great activity to do with your kids – it's never too soon to get involved in self-advocacy! Find your federal legislator's address here: <https://bit.ly/3z1iV24>

Policy Contact

- Nicole Jorwic, jorwic@thearc.org
- Natalie Kean, nkean@justiceinaging.org

Hashtags: #CareCantWait, #BuildBackBetter, #HCBS CantWait #HoldTheLine

General Tweets:

- More than 820,000 disabled people are on waiting lists for #HomeAndCommunityBasedServices. Congress, it's time to deliver for disabled Americans -- #HoldTheLine and pass HCBS in the reconciliation
- People with disabilities rely on #HCBS services to stay in their communities & out of congregate settings. But labor shortages have contributed to long wait periods that have families facing tough decisions. Tell Congress #CareCantWait for people waiting for essential services!
- Qualifying for #HCBS is half the battle. The current funding allotment for these services offer unlivable wages that continue to strain an already struggling workforce. We need to #BuildBackBetter by giving these caregivers access to a living wage!
<https://bit.ly/3nq737D>
- 1.1 million family caregivers in the US choose not to go to work because they fear their loved ones won't be receiving the essential home care services they need. Fully funding #HCBS will allow for these families to return to the workforce without worry.
<https://bit.ly/3nq737D>
- Nationwide, there are 820,000 Americans on the waiting list for #HCBS essential services and most wait over 3 years! It's time to tell Congress that #CareCantWait for these families! See the impact of Better Care Better Jobs in your state:
- When Congress passed the ADA 30+ years ago, they promised equity for disabled people. But so long as #HCBS is underfunded, the ADA's promise cannot be realized. It's time for Congress to give disabled Americans a better deal. #HCBS CantWait [+IN SECOND TWEET, TAG MEMBERS] <https://bit.ly/3nq737D>
- For years, states have identified workforce shortages as a primary obstacle to #HCBS expansion. But with an aging population & 820,000 people currently on the waiting list, we need to #BuildBackBetter by investing in this essential workforce.
<https://bit.ly/3nq737D>
- #Essential home care workers—mostly women & people of color—earn on average \$11.50 per hour. This wage, when paired with the risks posed by the pandemic, has led to a 40-60% turnover rate. Congress needs to #BuildBackBetter by investing in #HCBS services! <https://bit.ly/3nq737D>

- The numbers are in! 88% of Americans prefer to receive care in their home rather than a congregate setting. Unfortunately, long wait periods prevent 820,000 Americans from receiving #HCBS services. Congress can end waitlists by passing the Better Care Better Jobs Act!
- My civil rights and my life will be at stake if I cannot stay in my home during the most recent #coronavirus outbreak. Congress needs to support home & community-based services in coronavirus relief! #CareCantWait Share your story: <https://bit.ly/3lclUee>
- Insufficient funding for home-based care puts strain on families to provide uncompensated care or place aging loved ones into institutions - which accounted for 40% of #COVID19 deaths. A great investment in #HCBS can fix this: <https://bit.ly/3kJeFR4> #CareCantWait
- A significant investment in #Medicaid #HCBS would provide funding to expand the direct care workforce & meet the growing demand for #HCBS through higher wages & benefits & improved workforce training and support <https://bit.ly/3kJeFR4> #CareCantWait
- Due to systemic discrimination, older adults of color are even less likely to have access to #HCBS. A robust investment will help build more equitable #care systems that allow us all to age at homes in our communities <https://bit.ly/3kJeFR4> #CareCantWait
- Most older adults w/ disabilities want to age at home, but half of states spend 2x as much on institutional care as on #HCBS. The #BetterCareBetterJobsAct will transform the community-based care system for older adults & ppl who care for them <https://bit.ly/3kJeFR4> #CareCantWait
- People with disabilities and older adults use home & community-based services to bathe, eat, work, and live in their homes and communities. During times of crisis, funding these services becomes even more critical. #CareCantWait Take Action: <https://bit.ly/3tv8rqD>
- People with disabilities and the workforce that cares for them are essential. It's time Congress recognized that by paying them living wages. #CareCantWait See the impacts of the BCBJA in your state: <https://bit.ly/3nq737D>
- The Better Care Better Jobs Act will increase the number of individuals receiving home & community-based services; Increase the number of informal caregivers who will get jobs; & Increase the number & quality of direct care jobs in all states <https://bit.ly/3nq737D> #CareCantWait
- Person-centered health services are vital! They allow disabled people to receive necessary care in their homes and community. Now is NOT the time to forgo home and community based services. #CareCantWait

- Home and community-based services are not a matter of preference during the COVID-19 outbreak. They are necessary. #CareCantWait, Call 202-224-3121 to be connected to your Members of Congress now!
- Outbreaks AGAIN of #COVID19 in nursing homes, psychiatric institutions & other congregate care settings are spiking. But home & community based services remain woefully underfunded. Congress must fix this by passing the #BetterCareBetterJobsAct #CareCantWait

State Specific Tweets

Nevada

- @_____, the annual costs of #HCBS is \$26,000 per person whereas Nevada would spend \$90,000 for that SAME person in a congregate setting. #BuildBackBetter by funding quality care to your constituents in their own community!
- @_____, #BuildBackBetter by demonstrating your support to the 15,000 caregivers who have worked tirelessly to provide #HomeAndCommunityBasedServices to YOUR constituents during the pandemic!
- @_____, which part of the \$400 billion for #Medicaid #HCBS is concerning? Right now 1 in 6 home care workers in NV live in poverty and 83,000 home care job openings will need to be filled by 2028. We need to #BuildBackBetter by providing these essential workers with a livable wage!
- @_____, a \$400 billion dollar investment in #HCBS will allow for 1,500 family caregivers in NV to return to work! In a time where the nation is experiencing a labor shortage, it is essential that we #BuildBackBetter by making these key investments!
- @_____, 1,200 Nevadans are on the waiting list for #HCBS services and it will only grow in the coming years if left underfunded! A 400 billion dollar investment will allow for VA to #BuildBackBetter by investing essential services!

Delaware

- @_____, the annual costs of #HCBS is \$26,000 per person whereas Delaware would spend \$90,000 for that SAME person in a congregate setting. #BuildBackBetter by funding quality care to your constituents in their own community!
- @_____, #BuildBackBetter by demonstrating your support to the 6,700 caregivers who have worked tirelessly to provide #HomeAndCommunityBasedServices to YOUR constituents during the pandemic!
- @_____, 60% of home care workers in Delaware are people of color who on average earn \$15,800 annually. #BuildBackBetter by investing in “living wage” care jobs that will contribute to Delaware's economy as it recovers!
- @_____, a \$400 billion dollar investment in #HCBS will allow for family caregivers in DE to return to work! In a time where the nation is experiencing a labor shortage, it is essential that we #BuildBackBetter by making these key investments!
- @_____, The numbers are in! 88% of Americans prefer to receive care in their home rather than a congregate setting. A 400 billion dollar investment will allow for DE to #BuildBackBetter by investing in these essential services!

Arizona

- @_____, the annual costs of #HCBS is \$26,000 per person whereas Arizona would spend \$90,000 for that SAME person in a congregate setting. #BuildBackBetter by funding quality care to your constituents in their own community!
- @_____, #BuildBackBetter by demonstrating your support to the 67,000 caregivers who have worked tirelessly to provide #HomeAndCommunityBasedServices to YOUR constituents during the pandemic!
- @_____, which part of the \$400 billion for #Medicaid #HCBS is concerning? Right now 1 in 5 home care workers in AZ live in poverty and 169,600 home care job openings will need to be filled by 2028. We need to #BuildBackBetter by providing these essential workers with a livable wage!
- @_____, a \$400 billion dollar investment in #HCBS will allow for family caregivers in AZ to return to work! In a time where the nation is experiencing a labor shortage, it is essential that we #BuildBackBetter by making these key investments!
- @_____, The numbers are in! 88% of Americans prefer to receive care in their home rather than a congregate setting. A 400 billion dollar investment will allow for AZ to #BuildBackBetter by investing in these essential services!

Montana

- @_____, the annual costs of #HCBS is \$26,000 per person whereas Montana would spend \$90,000 for that SAME person in a congregate setting. #BuildBackBetter by funding quality care to your constituents in their own community!
- **[DRAFT]**@_____, #BuildBackBetter by demonstrating your support to the 6,700 caregivers who have worked tirelessly to provide #HomeAndCommunityBasedServices to YOUR constituents during the pandemic!
- @_____, which part of the \$400 billion for #Medicaid #HCBS is concerning? Right now 1 in 3 home care workers in MT live in poverty and 13,000 home care job openings will need to be filled by 2028. We need to #BuildBackBetter by providing these essential workers with a livable wage!
- @_____, a \$400 billion dollar investment in #HCBS will allow for 14,000 family caregivers in MT to return to work! In a time where the nation is experiencing a labor shortage, it is essential that we #BuildBackBetter by making these key investments!
- @_____, 2,100 Montanans are on the waiting list for #HCBS services and it will only grow in the coming years if left underfunded! A 400 billion dollar investment will allow for MT to #BuildBackBetter by investing essential services

West Virginia

- @_____, the annual costs of #HCBS is \$26,000 per person whereas West Virginia would spend \$90,000 for that SAME person in a congregate setting. #BuildBackBetter by funding quality care to your constituents in their own community!
- @_____, #BuildBackBetter by demonstrating your support to the 15,000 caregivers who have worked tirelessly to provide #HomeAndCommunityBasedServices to YOUR constituents during the pandemic!
- @_____, which part of the \$400 billion for #Medicaid #HCBS is concerning? Right now 1 in 4 home care workers in WV live in poverty and 28,600 home care job openings will need to be filled by 2028. We need to #BuildBackBetter by providing these essential workers with a livable wage!
- @_____, a \$400 billion dollar investment in #HCBS will allow for 2,700 family caregivers in WV to return to work! In a time where the nation is experiencing a labor shortage, it is essential that we #BuildBackBetter by making these key investments!
- @_____, 2,100 West Virginians are on the waiting list for #HCBS services and it will only grow in the coming years if left underfunded! A 400 billion dollar investment will allow for WV to #BuildBackBetter by investing essential services!

- WV spends almost 4x as much on institutional care as on #HCBS for older adults. To fix this, WV needs a bold long-term federal investment to provide these essential services at home, where older adults and people with disabilities want to be! <https://bit.ly/3kJeFR4> #CareCantWait
- @_____, With 1 in 5 West Virginians age 65+ and 2,100 people with disabilities on the waiting list for #HCBS it's clear that #CareCantWait. It's time for a bold investment in HCBS so that WV can #BuildBackBetter

Georgia

- @_____, the annual costs of #HCBS is \$26,000 per person whereas Georgia would spend \$90,000 for that SAME person in a congregate setting. #BuildBackBetter by funding quality care to your constituents in their own community!
- @_____, #BuildBackBetter by demonstrating your support to the 41,000 caregivers who have worked tirelessly to provide #HomeAndCommunityBasedServices to YOUR constituents during the pandemic!
- @_____, which part of the \$400 billion for #Medicaid #HCBS is concerning? Right now 1 in 4 home care workers in GA live in poverty and 93,000 home care job openings will need to be filled by 2028. We need to #BuildBackBetter by providing these essential workers with a livable wage!
- @_____, a \$400 billion dollar investment in #HCBS will allow for 16,500 family caregivers in GA to return to work! In a time where the nation is experiencing a labor shortage, it is essential that we #BuildBackBetter by making these key investments!
- @_____, 6,800 Georgia residents are on the waiting list for #HCBS services and it will only grow in the coming years if left underfunded! A 400 billion dollar investment will allow for WV to #BuildBackBetter by investing in essential services!

Graphics



Downloadable at this Link:

<https://docs.google.com/drawings/d/1RVLWqC1irZYcW9FiSWMrKeJBkFGa1P37zNESqtzskRI/e?usp=sharing>

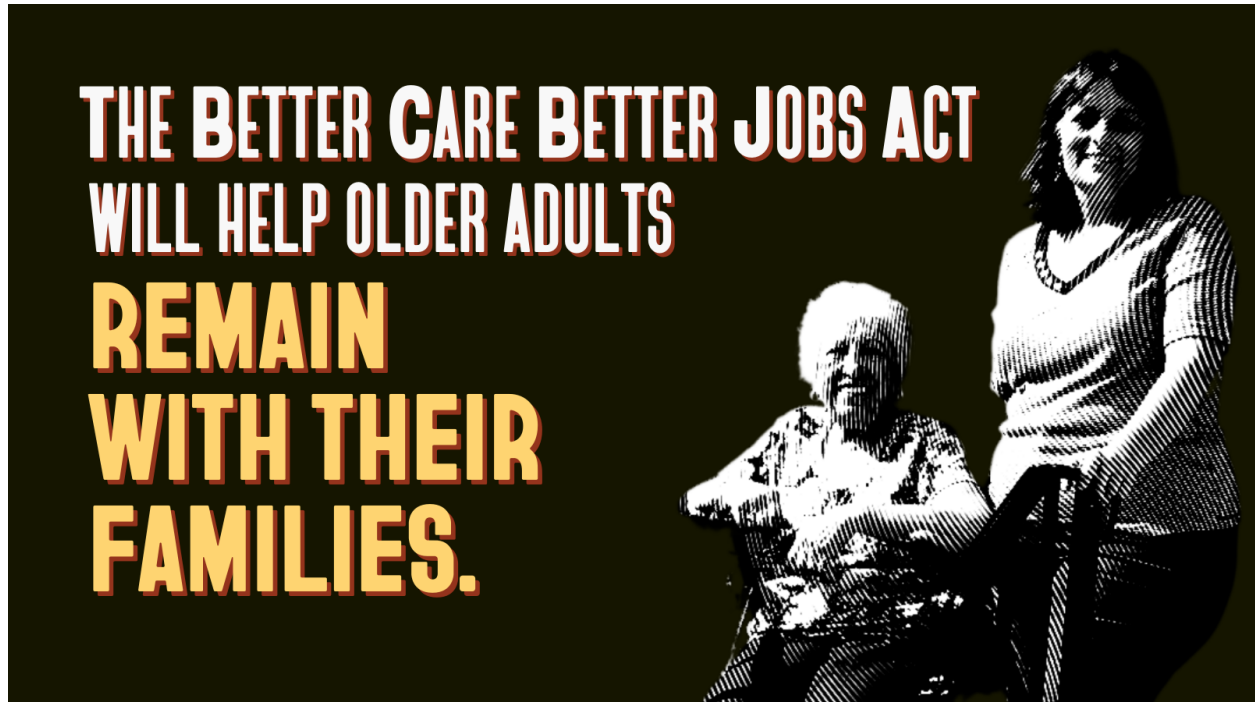
Alt text: Image of an older woman looking at the viewer with the text “the historic investment in Medicaid home and community-based services in the Better Care Better Jobs Act is a huge deal”



Download here:

<https://docs.google.com/drawings/d/1TN-FcT9a9eAJ2eIWQxY6w3DNOQUXK4V-hN58cHrfLJY/edit?usp=sharing>

Alt text: Black and white image of a series of row homes with the text “Congress must help older adults and people with disabilities get the care they need at home.”



Download here:

<https://docs.google.com/drawings/d/1qzMjTcgZLnYdM2I5HMT0xqzHpAZ2Us9J31ebWV37s-kk/edit?usp=sharing>

Alt text: Image of a woman standing next to an older woman in a wheelchair with the text “The Better Care Better Jobs Act will help older adults remain with their families”

Robyn, talk about Issue(s)

- SSI