

**MYWORK. MYCHOICE.**

**MYHOME. MYCHOICE.**

The Honorable \_\_\_\_\_

**Re: Proposed HCBS Rule that will hurt people with disabilities**

Dear Representative/Senator \_\_\_\_\_:

I need your help. I need you to contact Secretary Sebelius and demand that she modify a very bad proposed rule. This rule would deny your disabled constituents services they need. The proposed rule relates to the definition of home and community-based settings under the Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services (HCBS) program [77 *Federal Register* 26362 (May 3, 2012)].

The center-based programs and group homes in my community provides numerous benefits to people with disabilities. Please visit our local programs, which offer a full range of services, including supported employment, center-based programs, supported living, and group homes so you can better understand how devastating this policy would be to the quality of life of people it serves.

- Since when do Washington Bureaucrats know what's best for people served by our community's disability services programs?
- Since when is it okay to take away the choice of critical services the participants in these programs have been receiving for years?
- Since when is it okay to take people who are happy with their programs and make them miserable by denying him the services they want and which the programs' trained professionals say needs?

The proposed regulation should be changed – it should expand opportunities for individuals with disabilities to work and live more independently without eliminating or restricting center-based work and day program opportunities or group homes. One size does not fit all!

I am not asking for more money. I am only asking you to ensure that people in our community's disability services programs will continue to receive the Medicaid HCBS services and supports that they need and that they choose with family members, together, based on **what matters most** for the people our programs serve.

Please send a strong message to Secretary Sebelius! The proposed rule would be devastating to the lives of people receiving Medicaid services. It must be modified to preserve a range of service options for people with disabilities that include prevocational services in center-based programs, center-based day activity programs, and group homes.

Thank you for your understanding and your consideration of this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Address: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_