

EMPOWER Care Act (S.2227 HR 5306) NATIONAL DAY OF ACTION
DECEMBER 4, 2018



Congress Can Give the Gift of Home Sweet Home this Holiday by re-authorizing Money Follows the Person

Money Follows the Person has allowed 83,000 individuals with disabilities to leave institutions and regain home and community.

In addition to Home and Community-based Services eligibility, the program provides extra support to individuals such as obtaining household goods, paying deposits, obtaining home modifications, etc. The extra support lasts one year to make sure that people are safely and comfortably settled into their homes and communities. At the end of the first year, individuals continue to receive services from the regular Medicaid home and community program for which they have qualified.

In most states the program ended in 2017. With little to no support for actually moving out of an institution, many states have seen the number of people moving into their own homes drop dramatically.

MFP brings an enhanced Federal Medicaid match rate (FMAP) to participating states.

MFP has bipartisan support, and is supported by Governors, State Medicaid Directors, providers, older Americans and people with disabilities.

Because of the importance of this program to the fundamental freedom of Older Americans and people with disabilities and because of the need to comply with the US Supreme Court, “Olmstead” decision, Empower Care Act should be reauthorized for at least 5 years, or made permanent.

By passing the EMPOWER Care Act and funding the Money Follows the Person program, Congress can help more people with disabilities transition out of institutions and nursing homes and into the homes and communities of their choice.

ON THIS DAY OF ACTION, ADVOCATES SHOULD CALL AND/OR VISIT CONGRESSIONAL AND SENATE OFFICES to ask FOR AN IMMEDIATE HOUSE VOTE ON HR 5306, before the end of the 115th Congress. Senators should be asked to act quickly to pass the legislation once it has been passed by the House.

Call congressional offices directly or through the switchboard. If you do not have the direct number, you can reach US representatives by **calling** 202-225-3121, and US **senators** by **calling** 202-224-3121. Ask the operator to connect you to the individual office.