

**Statement for the Record Submitted to the Senate Special Committee on Aging on
“The Future of Long-Term Care Policy: Continuing the Conversation”**

The Commission on Long-Term Care accomplished an important goal: elevating the conversation in Washington about the need to improve long-term care. The Commission [report](#) and the [alternative](#) report call attention to the urgent need to enhance the long term services and supports (LTSS) system to support families across the country.

The National Senior Citizens Law Center (NSCLC) believes the first step in improving LTSS is addressing the imbalance that exists in LTSS financing. Unfortunately, Medicaid, the nation's largest LTSS payer, continues to give preference to providing LTSS in institutions such as nursing homes instead of at home and in the community. As a result, many low-income older adults who could be receiving care at home are unnecessarily moved into institutions.

There was widespread agreement by the Commission that a high quality, accessible network of home and community-based services that supports individuals so that they may live with dignity and independence in the setting of their choice is an important component of long-term care reform. As Congress addresses the recommendations of the Commission, we urge them to seize the opportunity to correct Medicaid’s imbalance and finally shift the delivery of Medicaid-funded long-term services and supports away from institutions and into the community.

NSCLC commends Chairman Nelson and Ranking Member Collins for convening this hearing. The Committee is continuing an important conversation that parents, children and caregivers have every day: what can be done to support individuals and families who feel the impact of a fragmented long-term care system?

A [Policy Issue Brief](#) of the recommendations we shared with the Commission can be found on our website.

The National Senior Citizens Law Center is the only national non-profit whose principal mission is to protect the rights of low income older adults. Through advocacy, litigation, and the education and counseling of local advocates, we ensure their health, economic security and access to the courts. NSCLC has offices in Washington, DC, Oakland and Los Angeles, CA. For more information, visit www.nsclc.org.