

The Academy of Senior Health Sciences Inc.



May 16, 2017

To: Senator Bob Hackett, Chair, Finance – Health and Medicaid Subcommittee
Cc: Members of The Senate Finance Health and Medicaid Subcommittee
Re: Support of Managed Long-Term Services and Supports

The Academy of Senior Health Sciences is an association that advocates for Ohio skilled nursing facility and assisted living facility providers. Our members work tirelessly providing personal and skilled nursing care services to some of the frailest elderly and disabled Ohioans, regardless of payer source. The Academy supports the expansion of managed long-term services and supports (MLTSS) as proposed by the Kasich administration.

Academy members pride themselves as innovative leaders in providing long-term services and supports. Members are participating in Center for Medicare and Medicaid Services alternative payment model programs. Other members participated in a pilot program that rewarded quality and reduced costs in the MyCare Ohio program. We look to build upon these experiences and continue to work with MyCare Ohio managed care organizations (MCO) on new payment and delivery models that can produce quality outcomes at lower cost.

Despite these efforts, there have been difficulties in the MyCare Ohio program. Many of the problems arise from the operational components and provider relations within the MCOs. The Academy has had numerous communications with the administration and MCOs to discuss necessary improvements to MyCare Ohio. With the commitment of both MCOs and the administration to create a better managed care environment in MLTSS, The Academy is very encouraged that expanding MLTSS has the potential to be a great program that spurs innovation and improves outcomes.

MyCare Ohio has indicated that there are opportunities to increase value and improve outcomes. It has also exposed problems in managed care for LTSS. Learning from these experiences, and the experiences of our members, The Academy believes MLTSS can be a successful program for the MCOs, the providers, and the frail elderly and disabled we serve. We are in full support of expanding MLTSS. We are looking forward to an improved provider experience and more innovation that drives higher quality at lower cost in the entire MLTSS environment.

Thank you for your time and please contact me if you have any questions.

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