

**Statement:**

Medicare-Medicaid Integration Alliance

**NEW MULTI-STAKEHOLDER ALLIANCE RESPONDS TO LEGISLATION TO IMPROVE CARE FOR PEOPLE WITH MEDICARE & MEDICAID**

*Introduction of the Delivering Unified Access to Lifesaving Services (DUALS) Act is a step toward integrating public insurance programs to better meet enrollees' complex care and social needs and we look forward to improving upon it in the months to come.*

“As organizations dedicated to improving the care and experience of people who are dually eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid, we strongly support efforts to advance the integration of both programs. The introduction of the Delivering Unified Access to Lifesaving Services (DUALS) Act represents an important milestone on the way to making Medicare and Medicaid work better together.

“We support the legislation’s focus on delivering coverage that is more integrated, coordinated, and comprehensive. The legislation addresses some key challenges that exist for people who are dually eligible today, like churning in and out of coverage, by allowing people to maintain their coverage for up to one year. It also contains important protections intended to ensure people who are dually eligible have somewhere to turn if coverage issues arise.

“Congress can strengthen the legislation by simplifying the coverage landscape and ensuring that people have adequate time and information to make the best coverage decision for themselves or someone they care for. Additionally, inviting people who are dually eligible to play an active, meaningful role in designing and maintaining the program would benefit the legislation by bringing much-needed first-hand perspective.

“Individuals who are dually eligible face more challenging healthcare and social needs than most people, and a lack of integration and coordination between the two programs makes it challenging to access care and services. We urge Congress to make administrative processes, care, and services simpler to navigate and more responsive to the needs of all people who are dually eligible.”

--Amber Christ, Managing Director of Health Advocacy, Justice in Aging

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**About the Medicare-Medicaid Integration Alliance**

*The Medicare-Medicaid Integration Alliance (MMIA) is dedicated to improving care for the more than 12 million people dually enrolled in Medicare and Medicaid. MMIA is composed of consumer, advocacy, policy, payer, and other diverse stakeholder organizations that want health care and social services to be more integrated so they work better for the millions of people eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid and enable the providers who treat them to deliver more effective, efficient care. Learn more at [MedicareMedicaidIntegration.org](http://MedicareMedicaidIntegration.org).*