



August 15<sup>th</sup>, 2024

The Honorable Jen Kiggans  
1037 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Marcy Kaptur  
2186 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Kiggans and Kaptur:

The National Down Syndrome Society (NDSS) empowers individuals with Down syndrome and their families by driving policy change, providing resources, engaging with local communities, and shifting public perceptions. We write today in strong support of the passage of H.R. 8108, which would amend Title XIX of the Social Security Act to require medical assistance under the Medicaid program for certain home and community-based services for military families. This legislation would ensure Medicaid would not penalize military members and families from moving across state borders to fulfill the military member's service requirements.

Most individuals with Down syndrome rely on Medicaid as their primary insurance provider. Medicaid funded services as a result are crucial to individuals with IDD. This population also includes disabled members of the military, who may have families as well who rely on Medicaid benefits. When military families relocate to different states as stipulated by their service, they lose these critical Medicaid benefits. Military members and their families will have to re-apply with their new state's Medicaid program. This process is time consuming and tedious, with the added possibility that the military family will not be present long-term in the state and might have to relocate again. Without the passage of this bill, many military families will have to go through repeated cycles of losing their Medicaid benefits with each relocation. This bill would add a provision for military families temporarily relocated to different states to retain their eligibility for their home states' Medicaid program. Instead of having to reapply for new Medicaid programs, this bill would ensure that military members and their families are able to stay on the program of their home state.

The NDSS serves dozens of military families, including members of our board of directors, that would be positively impacted by their ability to move across state lines to fulfill their military obligations and not risk their children losing access to essential Medicaid benefits.

NDSS strives to ensure all individuals with Down syndrome are assured their human rights and valued by a more inclusive society. We urge Congress to take action to ensure that military members and their families do not lose their Medicaid benefits upon relocation, and we thank you for your leadership regarding this important piece of legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kandi Pickard". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looped "P" at the end.

Kandi Pickard  
President and CEO  
National Down Syndrome Society

