



## **SAFEGUARDING LONG-TERM CARE FOR THE MOST VULNERABLE**

**Please urge your Senators and Representatives to support the Community Living Assistance Services and Supports (CLASS) Act, (S.697, H.R. 1721) provisions within health reform legislation and ensure that any final package retains them.**

### **Background**

The Federation system has long supported enhanced access to healthcare for the uninsured. We look forward to working with leaders to further strengthen and secure our healthcare safety net and explore paths that will lead to universal access to those who are in need of it. However, **for enhanced health care access to be a true success, long-term supports and services must be incorporated into health reform efforts.**

Long-term supports and services refers to the whole array of necessary health and social services provided to older adults, those with disabilities in institutions or in home and community-based settings. These services can include housing, medical care, transportation, and nutritional guidance. The Jewish Federations of North America believes that any long-term care reform needs to incorporate the delivery of high quality, affordable and accessible long-term supports and services, whether provided in institutional or in home and community-based settings.

### **The Legislation**

The Jewish Federations of North America urges legislators to support the Community Living Assistance Services and Supports (CLASS) Act, (S.697, H.R. 1721) provisions within the Affordable Health Choices Act and ensure that any final package retains them.

- The CLASS Act provisions is a sensible blend of public sector oversight built upon a foundation of personal responsibility that would create a voluntary disability insurance program for adults with long-term care needs and alleviate some of the pressure currently on the Medicaid program. The bi-partisan legislation will help establish a comprehensive continuum of care in preparation for the influx of the 78 million Baby Boomers who will likely need these types of supportive services as they age.
- The CLASS Act will provide individuals who are participating in this program with enhanced options for meeting their long-term services and supports regardless of whether their care is provided in home, community-based, or institutional settings.

**For further information, please contact Jonathan Westin, Assistant Director for Legislative Affairs at (202) 736-5860 or [jonathan.westin@ujc.org](mailto:jonathan.westin@ujc.org)**

*The Jewish Federations of North America represents 157 Jewish Federations and 400 Network communities, which raise and distribute more than \$3 billion annually for social welfare, social services and educational needs. The Federation movement, collectively among the top 10 charities on the continent, protects and enhances the well-being of Jews worldwide through the values of tikkun olam (repairing the world), tzedakah (charity and social justice) and Torah (Jewish learning).*