



## Department of Medicaid

John R. Kasich, Governor  
Barbara R. Sears, Director

August 21, 2017

The Honorable Larry Obhof, President  
Ohio Senate  
1 Capitol Square, 1<sup>st</sup> floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

The Honorable Cliff Rosenberger, Speaker  
Ohio House of Representatives  
77 South High Street, 13th Floor  
Columbus, Ohio 43215

Dear President Obhof and Speaker Rosenberger:

In the biennial budget, the Ohio General Assembly created the Patient-Centered Medicaid Managed Care Long-Term Services and Supports Study Committee to examine the merits of integrating the home and community based services (HCBS) program and nursing facility services into Medicaid managed care. (Am. Sub. H.B. 49, Sec. 333.270). The legislative committee was created in response to the Administration's stated goal of moving to Managed Long-Term Services and Supports (MLTSS) before the end of the biennium. Under the terms of Section 333.270, the House Speaker and Senate President each appoint a co-chair to lead the Committee, which has until December 31, 2018 to issue a report of its findings.

The Administration firmly believes that MLTSS is necessary to improve care coordination and health outcomes for Medicaid-covered Ohioans with some of the most complex needs. However, in deference to the General Assembly's desire to have a joint legislative committee study the benefits of MLTSS, and to allow sufficient time for an effective implementation, ***the Ohio Department of Medicaid (ODM) will take no immediate action to implement an MLTSS program.*** Instead, ODM will use the opportunity to work with the Committee, Medicaid managed care plans, HCBS and nursing facility provider associations, and other interested stakeholders to develop an effective MLTSS model for consideration by the next Administration.

We continue to believe the adoption of an MLTSS model would be good for Ohio and support the process established under Section 333.270 to examine the benefits and determine the future course of MLTSS implementation. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,



Barbara R. Sears, Director

CC: The Honorable Scott Oelslager, Senate Finance Committee  
The Honorable Dave Burke, Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee  
The Honorable Ryan Smith, House Finance Committee  
The Honorable Steve Huffman, Joint Medicaid Oversight Committee