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May 31, 2023

Hon. Terry Rice, Arkansas Legislative Council Co-Chair
Hon. Jeff Wardlaw, Arkansas Legislative Council Co-Chair
1 Capitol Mall, Fifth Floor
Little Rock, Arkansas 72201

Dear Senator Rice and Representative Wardlaw:

As directed by Section 15 of Act 213 of 2022, I am reporting to Arkansas Legislative Council the status of our efforts to increase reimbursement rates under the Living Choices Assisted Living Waiver.

DHS is continuing its broad-based review of the entire Medicaid system, and we will bring forth recommendations later this year to ensure the long-term sustainability of the program. Assisted living payment rates are part of this review process. In addition, DHS is preparing to implement Act 198 of 2023, which authorizes DHS to establish cost reporting for Medicaid-funded assisted living facilities.

In the meantime, assisted living providers continue to receive the temporarily higher payment rates they have been receiving during the COVID-19 pandemic. These higher rates will continue through at least November 11, 2023.

Very respectfully,

Kristi Putnam
Secretary of Human Services