



**DHS Secretary Kristi Putnam
Office of the Secretary**

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June 28, 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.

In the June meeting of Arkansas Legislative Council, I announced that DHS will be seeking \$2 million to use for support of assisted living facilities. DHS staff are developing a plan for how these funds will be allocated, and I expect the plan will be presented to ALC-PEER in July.

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 continuing the work necessary to implement Act 198 of 2023 which authorizes DHS to establish cost reporting for Medicaid-funded assisted living facilities.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Kristi Putnam', written over a vertical line.

Kristi Putnam
Secretary of Human Services