

*advance***CLASS**
A new era of independence and choice.

September 30, 2011

President Barack Obama
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Ave., N.W.
Washington, DC 20500

Cc: Congressional Leadership

Dear Mr. President:

The CLASS Program was put into the Affordable Care Act because every American family faces the reality that an accident or illness requiring long-term care could devastate them financially. Our coalition of senior, disability, and consumer organizations, representing millions of Americans, applauded you for standing up for CLASS, and we ask you to keep your commitment to implementing it.

The CLASS option will allow millions of citizens to plan ahead, take personal responsibility, and when the unknown strikes, not be forced to give up being a productive citizen in order to access the services they need.

In addition, CLASS can have a positive impact on the Medicaid budget by giving people the tools they need to live independently, paid for by voluntary premiums instead of taxpayer funds.

The undersigned groups fought passionately for CLASS to be included in health reform. We will continue to fight passionately for the implementation of the CLASS program.

Mr. President, Congress gave you the authority to make necessary changes to the design of CLASS to make it work. We fully expect the Administration to go forward and use that authority in implementing the law.

Sincerely,

Constance Garner
Executive Director
Advance CLASS, Inc.

William Minnix
CEO, LeadingAge
Chair, Advance CLASS, Inc.

AARP
AFSCME
The Arc of the United States
American Network of Community Options and Resources
Alzheimer's Association
Easter Seals
LeadingAge
National Council on Aging
National Council on Independent Living
Paralyzed Veterans of America
SEIU
UNIVITA