March 18, 2019

Dear Senator Portman and Senator Cantwell:

The Autism Society of America writes to express our gratitude for introducing the EMPOWER Care Act (H.R. 1342) to reauthorize the Money Follows the Person (MFP) program for five years. Since its first authorization in 2005, MFP has helped more than 88,000 people with disabilities transition out of institutional settings back to living in their communities. MFP has also enabled at least 43 states and the District of Columbia to develop the required infrastructure to enhance people’s access to home and community-based services (HCBS) a high priority for the Autism Society of America.

We thank you for your longstanding commitment to promoting community living for people with disabilities. We look forward to working with you to pass this important legislation.

Thank you again for the introduction of this bill. Please contact Kim Musheno, Vice President of Public Policy at the Autism Society of America (kmusheno@autism-society.org or 800-328-8476) for more information and assistance.

Sincerely,

Scott Badesch, CEO