



Leadership Council of Aging Organizations

William (Larry) Minnix, Jr., Chair

December 20, 2006

Via: Fax and U.S. Mail

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
2371 Rayburn HOB
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker-Designate Pelosi:

On behalf of the members of the Leadership Council of Aging Organizations (LCAO), we are writing in support of reestablishing a Select Committee on Aging in the 110th Congress, as called for in a December 5 letter sent by a number of our colleagues and former staffer members on the committee.

LCAO is a coalition of 54 national not-for-profit organizations concerned with the well-being of America's 87 million people over age 50. An advocacy leader since 1978, LCAO is committed to social justice and fiscal responsibility for an aging society.

We believe a Select Committee on Aging would be an important and visible vehicle to ensure the issues involving our older Americans get an increased level of attention and action in the new House of Representatives.

A number of our organizations worked closely with the House Select Committee on Aging in its years of existence. It was an important advocacy voice for seniors on key policy issues, from taking the lead on behalf of abolishing mandatory retirement to pioneering work relative to long-term care. It was deeply involved in the landmark 1983 Social Security Reform bill and six reauthorizations of the Older Americans Act.

As you know well the Committee benefited from inspired leadership, especially Claude Pepper of Florida and Ed Roybal of California. Several of your current colleagues including Henry Waxman, Ralph Regula and Dan Lungren served on the Committee.

Addressing issues of aging is more important now than ever. We believe the work by this Select Committee would benefit the overall work of the House by allowing more in-depth review and discussion of major pending issues from Medicare and Medicaid reform to long-term care. It would also provide a new forum for an honest and balanced discussion about the future of Social Security. Members who would serve on this Committee would also serve on legislative committees and they would be able to better contribute to legislation produced on behalf of older Americans.

We hope, in conjunction with the 30th anniversary of when Claude Pepper became Chairman of the previous House Select Committee on Aging, that you would authorize its reestablishment.

Sincerely,

AARP
AFSCME Retiree Program
Alliance for Aging Research
Alliance for Retired Americans
Alzheimer's Association
American Association for International Aging
American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging
AFT Program on Retirement & Retirees
American Geriatrics Society
American Public Health Association
American Society of Consultant Pharmacists
American Society on Aging
Association for Gerontology and Human Development in Historically Black Colleges and Universities
Association of Jewish Aging Services of North America
B'nai B'rith International
Catholic Health Association of the United States
Experience Works
The Gerontological Society of America
International Union, United Auto Workers (UAW)
Meals On Wheels Association of America
National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys
National Alliance for Caregiving
National Asian Pacific Center on Aging
National Association for Home Care & Hospice
National Association of Area Agencies on Aging
National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs
National Association of Professional Geriatric Care Managers
National Association of Social Workers
National Association of State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs
National Association of State Units on Aging
National Caucus and Center on Black Aged, Inc
National Citizens' Coalition for Nursing Home Reform
National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare
National Council On Aging
National Indian Council on Aging, Inc.
National Senior Citizens Law Center
OWL, The Voice of Midlife and Older Women
United Jewish Communities