

The logo features a stylized sunburst or starburst design within a circular frame, with a green square element at the top left corner.

# Leadership Council of Aging Organizations

*Max Richtman, Chair*

September 15, 2015

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate  
S-230 Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate  
S-221 Capitol Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leaders McConnell and Reid:

The Leadership Council of Aging Organizations (LCAO) is a coalition of 72 national nonprofit organizations concerned with the well-being of America's seniors and committed to representing their interests in the policy-making arena. I am writing on behalf of LCAO members to thank you for your efforts to achieve the Senate's unanimous approval of S. 192, the "Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act of 2015," bipartisan legislation to reauthorize the Older Americans Act (OAA).

Since the Act's most recent expiration in 2011, LCAO has supported a reauthorization that reaffirms its mission and protects its services. This remains a top priority and we appreciate your bipartisan efforts to advance the OAA reauthorization process in the 114<sup>th</sup> Congress and to achieve Senate passage during the Act's milestone 50<sup>th</sup> anniversary month.

As you know, the OAA is a primary vehicle for developing, coordinating, and delivering home and community-based services that help older adults maintain their independence and dignity. The OAA also includes the only federal workforce program targeted to help low-income older adults prepare for and obtain employment in the community, and a long-term care ombudsman program that protects the rights of seniors living in institutions.

Your efforts to advance reauthorization support the Act's primary mission to keep seniors healthy and in their communities, which can delay or prevent the need for more expensive institutional care, such as that paid for through Medicare or Medicaid. By helping seniors age in place, OAA programs can improve our country's fiscal future and promote efficiencies within the health care system.

With respect to S. 192, we appreciate the updated definitions of terminology, modest changes to several key OAA programs, and other considered adjustments designed to reflect today's

realities. We also appreciate your efforts to reach consensus and craft a workable agreement on the funding formula.

Most importantly, the “Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act of 2015” preserves the numerous ways in which this Act works so well at the federal, state and local levels to support older adults and caregivers preserve dignity, independence, health, safety and economic security. We stand ready to help promote and advance OAA reauthorization in the House and to see a bipartisan bill signed into law this year.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Max Richtman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Max Richtman  
Chair

cc: Members of the United States Senate