



Leadership Council of Aging Organizations

Max Richtman, Chair

May 12, 2016

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
The Honorable Patty Murray
Health, Education, Labor & Pensions Committee
U.S. Senate

The Honorable John Kline
The Honorable Robert Scott
Committee on Education and the Workforce
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Michael Enzi
The Honorable Bernie Sanders
Subcommittee on Primary Health and
Retirement Security
U.S. Senate

The Honorable Virginia Foxx
The Honorable Rubén Hinojosa
Subcommittee on Higher Education and
Workforce Training
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Chairs Alexander, Kline, Enzi, and Foxx and Ranking Members Murray, Scott, Sanders and Hinojosa:

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 bipartisan congressional approval of S. 192, the "Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act of 2016," now Public Law 114-144.

LCAO supported a reauthorization that reaffirms the Older Americans Act (OAA) mission and protects its services, and we appreciate your efforts to make reauthorization of this critical legislation a reality in 2016. 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 and 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 the final bill that was signed into law last month, we appreciate the updated definitions of terminology, modest changes to several key OAA programs, and other considered adjustments designed to reflect today's realities. Most importantly, we appreciate that the reauthorization preserves the numerous ways in which this Act works so well at the federal, state and local levels to support and

preserve the dignity, independence, health, safety and economic security of older adults and their caregivers.

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 U.S. Senate
Members of the U.S. House of Representatives