



Max Richtman, Chair

**LCAO JUNE 15-19 CALL IN CAMPAIGN
URGES SENATE TO SUPPORT SENIORS IN NEXT COVID BILL**

Dear LCAO Colleagues:

This is a CALL TO ACTION for LCAO members! Please help push the U.S. Senate to pass additional legislation to support older adults during this COVID19 pandemic.

The Coronavirus workgroup drafted the ***attached*** Call-in Days scripts to help get our message out across the nation through grassroots/constituents and through your professional colleagues who are valiantly providing services to older adults.

The first script is for older adults who may use our programs or services. The second longer script is for professionals who are out in the communities serving older adults. Please feel free to modify the specific requests to match your interests, including specifying support for specific legislation or amounts of funding.

The Alliance for Retired Americans has provided a toll-free number with a recorded explanation, welcoming the caller/advocate to the Leadership Council of Aging Organizations Action Hotline.

- The caller/advocate dials 1- 855-626-6011 and hears the recording about COVID-19 and the need to help older Americans.
- The caller/advocate simply stays on the line and will be automatically connected to the Congressional Switchboard.
- The caller then asks for their Senator, and after telling the Senate office their name and town, uses the script that is appropriate for their situation.

Our general message is that we are all in this pandemic together and although the previous COVID relief legislative packages have been an important start, we need

a more robust federal response to protect the health and well-being of older adults, family caregivers, direct care workers, and the professional health and social services workforce.

We want to link the call-in campaign to the disproportionate death and infections sustained by the Black, Latino, Indigenous and other communities of color. The calls are intended to be directed to the Senate to get them to take action on a 4th Covid-19 package.

Sincerely,

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

Chairman

LCAO Call in Scripts for Coronavirus Campaign June 15-19, 2020

1. Script for Grassroots Campaign

- Hi, my name is [NAME] and I am constituent of [SENATOR NAME] from [CITY or TOWN]
- Older people need more help during the COVID-19 pandemic. They (or we) are dying at alarming rates, especially older adults who are Black, Indigenous and other people of color, and I am concerned about the health and safety of my (friend/relative/myself).
- Congress must make sure all nursing homes and assisted living facilities have enough personal protective equipment and must provide funding for services and meals to help older adults remain in their homes.
- Please support more funding for these needs.
- I will be watching this issue closely.

END

2. Script for Aging Advocates Campaign

- Hi, my name is [NAME] and I work in the aging and health field in [CITY or TOWN] and [STATE].
- I am calling to ask the Senator to support more to assist older Americans and family caregivers who are facing extremely difficult challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic.
- We rely on government to help keep our loved ones safe and healthy and older Americans are at a higher risk during COVID. In fact, 8 out of 10 deaths from COVID in the U.S. have been in adults 65 years old and older. Older adults of color and their families are experiencing disproportionate illness and death from COVID19. For example, nursing homes housing a substantial amount of Black and Latino residents have been [twice as likely](#) to get hit by the coronavirus as homes where the population was mainly White.
- **Congress Needs to Take Action to [CHOOSE ONE OR TWO]:**
 - Provide resources for quality care and support the rights of residents of nursing homes and assisted living;
 - Help older adults to live safely in their homes by providing supports and services like access to in-home care and food;
 - Promote safety and provide equipment for the workforce serving older adults, and
 - Safeguard the income and retirement security of older adults and generations to come.
- **Please fund the necessary [CHOOSE ONE OR TWO]:**
 - Supply and delivery of Personal Protective Equipment for all who work and volunteer with older adults.
 - Accurate and available testing for everyone, along with support for contact tracing.
 - Increased support for vital programs that serve older Americans such as Medicaid, Medicare, Social Security, the Older Americans Act, and pension protections; and Technology, training, senior housing, and long-term services & supports that help keep older adults healthy and prevent the harms caused by isolation.

- These priorities are important to me because [INSERT PERSONAL STORY HERE].
- Thank you for taking my call and please urge the Senator to support older Americans in the next COVID-19 package!