



Leadership Council  
of Aging Organizations

***Max Richtman, Chair***

March 30, 2021

The Honorable David Cicilline  
2233 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Cicilline:

On behalf of the 69 members of the Leadership Council of Aging Organizations (LCAO), I am writing to express our strong support for reestablishing the House Select Committee on Aging (HSCoA) as proposed in your measure, H. Res. 821. LCAO focuses on the well-being of America's older population and is committed to representing their interests in the policy-making arena.

Now is the opportune time to reestablish the HSCoA. Every day, 12,000 Americans turn 60. By 2030, nearly 75 million people in the U.S.—or 20% of the country—will be age 65 or older. As America grows older, the need for support and services provided under programs like Social Security, SSI, Medicare, Medicaid and the Older Americans Act also increases.

This past year proved particularly difficult for older adults in our country and globally as the coronavirus had a disparate impact on the lives of older individuals, particularly those residing in assisted living facilities and nursing homes.

As Americans are aging, we also face a variety of intergenerational concerns that merit attention, such as growing demands on family caregivers and a burgeoning retirement security crisis. Addressing these demands in a fiscally responsible, bipartisan manner deserves greater attention, understanding, and public engagement. While the authorizing committees of the House of Representatives perform exemplary oversight and legislative functions over matters within their respective jurisdictions, the Select Committee would have an opportunity to more fully explore a range of issues and innovations that cross jurisdictional lines, while holding field hearings, convening remote hearings, engaging communities, and promoting understanding and dialogue.

The HSCoA would also complement the strong bipartisan work of the Senate Special Committee on Aging, which has effectively promoted member understanding on a range of issues, including the concerns of grandparents raising grandchildren, elder abuse and fraud, the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic on older Americans and their families, and the costs associated with isolation and loneliness.

Historically, the HSCoA served as a unique venue that allowed open, bipartisan debate from various ideological and philosophical perspectives to promote consensus that, in turn, permeated standing committees. Millions of older Americans faced unique economic and health risks pre-pandemic, and the coronavirus continues to take its toll, exacerbating the problem of social

isolation and family separation across generations. Addressing the needs of older Americans in a post-pandemic world will require vigilant oversight and action.

We urge all House members to join in your effort to reestablish the House Select Committee on Aging by cosponsoring your legislation.

Sincerely,

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

Chair