



Leadership Council
of Aging Organizations

Katie Smith Sloan, Chair

March 4, 2022

Dear Member of Congress:

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 H. Res. 583, a Resolution introduced by Rep. David Cicilline. LCAO focuses on the well-being of America's older population and is committed to representing their interests in the policy-making arena. *We are seeking as many cosponsors as soon as possible (there are currently 41) to support this important Resolution before the session's overall agenda would make action more difficult.* Congressman Cicilline asked for our renewed support. To cosponsor, please call or email his staff person, Christina Rankin at x5-4911 or Christina.Rankin@mail.house.gov.

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 percent 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.

The last two years have proven 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 House Aging Committee, which flourished in the 1970's under Chairman Claude Pepper, partnered and magnified the work of the standing committees in a team effort and a bipartisan manner, holding many joint hearings with them and helping to pass the end of mandatory retirement 359-2 in the House and 89-19 in the Senate, as well as protecting Social Security, exposing nursing home abuses and setting transparency standards, expanding home health care benefits as a way older persons could often delay or avoid the need for being forced into nursing homes, and so much more. Ways and Means, Education and Labor, Energy and Commerce, and

Space, Science and Technology were just some of the Committees who benefited from the partnership and appreciated the House Aging Committee's help in reaching senior citizens.

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, the importance of financial literacy in planning for retirement, 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.

For these reasons, the Leadership Council of Aging Organizations urge as many House members as possible to join in the effort to reestablish the House Select Committee on Aging by cosponsoring H. Res. 583.

Sincerely,

Aging Life Care Association

Alliance for Retired Americans

Alzheimer's Association

Alzheimer's Foundation of America

AMDA - The Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care
Medicine

American Association of Service Coordinators

American Geriatrics Society

American Society on Aging

American Postal Workers Union Retirees

B'nai B'rith International

Center for Medicare Advocacy

Compassion & Choices

National Committee to Preserve Social Security & Medicare

International Association for Indigenous Aging
Jewish Federations of North America
LeadingAge
Meals on Wheels America
National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Program
National Adult Day Services Association
National Adult Protective Services Association
National Alliance for Caregiving
National Association for Hispanic Elderly
National Association for Home Care and Hospice
National Caucus and Center on Black Aging
National Senior Corps Association
National Council on Aging
Social Security Works
The Consumer Voice
USAging
Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement