



Leadership Council  
of *Aging Organizations*

***Richard J. Fiesta, Chair***

October 24, 2023

Ms. Neera Tanden  
Domestic Policy Advisor to President Biden  
The White House  
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, NW  
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Ms. Tanden,

We write as a follow up to an outstanding presentation by the Administration for Community Living (ACL) on the Interagency Coordinating Committee on Healthy Aging and Age Friendly Communities, during our monthly meeting on September 6, 2023.

We would like to request that you give priority to supporting the development of a national policy framework on aging that features the perspectives of older adults from across the nation. One item we would very much like to see are listening sessions around the country organized by the Interagency Coordinating Committee to directly elicit the views of older adults and caregivers.

Such a prioritization would complement the work being done in almost half of the states towards the development of Multisector/Master plans on aging. As organizations representing the interests of millions of older adults, we see the need to elevate a policy framework on aging as vital. Our nation is in the midst of a dramatic demographic shift with respect to aging, and as it continues to unfold, we believe that it is time for a national policy framework that focuses not only on lifespan but also on living the best possible quality of life throughout one's later years.

We believe that now is an opportune time to undertake this work in preparation for the 2024 reauthorization of the Older Americans Act, which we hope will include authority for a 2025 White House Conference on Aging (WHCOA). This would be the 8th WHCOA in history and the first one to be held as we approach the milestone of having more people over age 60 than under 18. It should be noted that the DPC has played a critical role in prior White House Conferences on Aging, perhaps most prominently during the 1995 and 2015 conferences.

We thank you in advance for your attention to this critical issue and for your consideration of our request.

Sincerely,

Richard J. Fiesta