



Leadership Council  
of Aging Organizations

***Richard Fiesta, Chair***

June 25, 2024

Rep. Seth Magaziner  
1218 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington DC, 20515

Dear Congressman Magaziner:

I am writing on behalf of the Leadership Council of Aging Organizations (LCAO), a coalition of 68 national nonprofit organizations concerned with the well-being of America's older population and committed to representing their interests in policy-making arenas. LCAO thanks you for your efforts to support older Americans as they age at home and in the community.

On behalf of the Council, I am writing to formally endorse H. Res. 1029, legislation you introduced to reestablish the House Select Committee on Aging (HSCoA). As we all age together as a society, we see the need to find solutions as demand grows for paid and family care workers, along with finding opportunities to address retirement security. 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 that would contribute to the solutions that present themselves as the number of older people in our nation increases.

The House Aging Committee, which flourished in the 1970s 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. Moreover, they worked to protect Social Security, expose nursing home abuses and set transparency standards, expand home health care benefits as a way older people could often delay or avoid the need of entering into long-term care facilities, and so much more. The Ways and Means, Education and Workforce, Energy and Commerce, and Space, Science and Technology were just some of the committees that benefited from the partnership and appreciated the House Aging Committee's help in reaching older Americans.

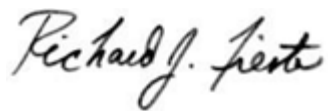
The HSCoA would also complement the strong bipartisan work of the Senate Special Committee on Aging, which has effectively promoted member understanding on a range of issues, including

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. Opportunities that arise where we can collectively use a solutions-based approach to addressing the unique economic and health risks that older people face, particularly in a post-pandemic world, will require vigilant oversight and action.

For these reasons, the Leadership Council of Aging Organizations endorses H. Res. 1029, to reestablish the House Select Committee on Aging.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Richard J. Fiesta". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Richard J. Fiesta

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