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October 1, 2013

The Honorable Tom Harkin
Chairman
Senate Committee on Health, Education,
Labor and Pensions
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Health, Education,
Labor and Pensions
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bernard Sanders
Chairman
Subcommittee on Primary Health and Aging
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Burr
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Primary Health and Aging
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

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California

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Dear Senators Harkin, Alexander, Sanders, and Burr:

I write today on behalf of the National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities (NASUAD), to thank you for your leadership in crafting a bipartisan bill to reauthorize the Older Americans Act (OAA), the Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act of 2013 (S. 1562).

NASUAD represents the 56 officially designated state and territorial agencies on aging and disabilities. Each of our members oversees the implementation of the OAA, and many also serve as the operating agency in their state for Medicaid waivers that serve older adults and individuals with disabilities. Together with our members, we work to design, improve, and sustain state systems delivering home and community based services and supports for people who are older or have a disability, and their caregivers.

The OAA, and its reauthorization, enjoy a long history of bipartisan, bicameral support. NASUAD remains committed to such a process in the current Congress, and as such, we are pleased to endorse S. 1562. The bill is a truly bipartisan effort to modernize the Act, and its introduction would not have been possible without your years of guidance and engagement.

With the goal of strengthening the OAA and improving the lives of the older adults, individuals with disabilities, and caregivers it serves, we urge the Committee to continue a collaborative, thoughtful reauthorization process by favorably reporting S. 1562 to the full Senate, without delay.

Thank you again for your vital leadership and dedication. We look forward to continuing to work together to reauthorize the OAA in a meaningful, bipartisan way.

Sincerely,

Martha A. Roherty
Executive Director