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December 9, 2019

Majority Leader McConnell
U.S. Senate

Minority Leader Schumer
U.S. Senate

Dear Majority Leader McConnell and Minority Leader Schumer:

On behalf of Advancing States, I am writing you in support of efforts to reauthorize the Older Americans Act (OAA). Advancing States is a nonpartisan association of state government agencies that represents the nation's 56 state and territorial agencies on aging and disabilities. We work to support visionary state leadership, the advancement of state systems innovation, and the development of national policies that support home and community-based services for older adults and persons with disabilities. Our members administer a wide range of services and supports for older adults and people with disabilities, including overseeing OAA programs and services in every state. Together with our members, we work to design, improve, and sustain state systems delivering long-term services and supports for people who are older or have a disability and for their caregivers.

We are writing to you to strongly encourage the U.S. Senate to pass a bill to reauthorize the OAA as soon as possible. Authorization for critical OAA programs, such as home-delivered meals and caregiver supports, expired September 30, 2019. We know that members of the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions committee have been working diligently to craft a bill to reauthorize the OAA. We appreciate these bipartisan efforts and strongly encourage the U.S. Senate to pass a bill to reauthorize the OAA as soon as possible.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please feel free to contact Damon Terzaghi at dterzaghi@advancingstates.org or Adam Mosey at amosey@advancingstates.org or 202-898-2578

Sincerely,

Martha Roherty
Executive Director
Advancing States

Cc: Members of the U.S. Senate