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March 18, 2016

Chairman John Kline
Committee on Education & the
Workforce
2176 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Robert C. Scott
Committee on Education & the
Workforce
2101 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

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Dear Chairman Kline and Ranking Member Scott:

On behalf of the National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities (NASUAD), I am writing to you to express our support for the House amendments to the Older Americans Act Reauthorization (S.192). NASUAD represents the 56 officially designated state and territorial agencies on aging and disabilities. Each of our members oversees the implementation of the Older Americans Act (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.

NASUAD and our members believe that the OAA is a vital component of our nation's long-term services and supports system, and is essential in supporting our nation's seniors. We appreciate all of the work that you and your staff have done to negotiate a compromise bill and to move this legislation to the House floor. We support the passage of the amended S.192, and hope that this legislation clears the House and is enacted into law.

NASUAD is supportive of many provisions in the legislation, including those which seek to modernize the OAA to reflect the current and future realities of the Aging Network. In particular, we support the language that amends the Act to promote state flexibility, person-centeredness, and cultural and linguistic competence in the administration and delivery of OAA services. In addition, we believe those provisions that would improve the economic security of older adults; strengthen

care coordination efforts; protect seniors from abuse, neglect, and exploitation; enhance the efficacy of evidence-based programs; and modernize senior centers would help build the capacity of the Aging Network to meet the needs of a growing, and increasingly diverse, population. We also appreciate that this legislation includes updates and increases to the funding levels for crucial programs that serve older Americans. We recommend that the House pass this legislation and we will continue to work with the Senate so that the reauthorization can be enacted into law before the end of this Congressional session.

Please feel free to contact Damon Terzaghi of my staff at (202) 898-2578 if you have any questions.



Martha A. Roherty
Executive Director
NASUAD