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April 15, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol Building, Room: H-232
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
U.S. Capitol Building, Room: H-204
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Minority Leader McCarthy:

On behalf of ADvancing States, I am writing you in support of efforts to reestablish the House Permanent Select Committee on Aging, including H. Res 821 in the 116th Congress. 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 Older Americans Act (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 you to reestablish the Permanent Select Committee on Aging in the House. As you know, from 1974 to 1993 the panel was active and conducted critical work on issues facing older Americans. The U.S. Senate has also operated the Special Committee on Aging since 1977.

Now more than ever it is critical that the House focus on issues affecting Older Americans. Ten-thousand Americans are turning 65 every day, and the demand for services and supports will continue to rise. These demographic trends will place additional strain on already burdened programs such as Medicare, Medicaid, and Social Security. The ongoing COVID-19 pandemic has also highlighted the critical needs of older Americans, including social isolation, food insecurity, and lack of transportation. There is a need to better coordinate policy and supports for Older Americans. The House can and should play a bigger part of the solution by reconvening the aging committee.



We appreciate being able to provide feedback on this important topic and encourage bipartisan efforts to reestablish the House Aging Committee.

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

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Martha Roherty".

Martha Roherty
Executive Director
ADvancing States

Cc: Members of the U.S. House of Representatives