



241 18th Street S
Suite 403
Arlington, VA 22202
202-898-2578
advancingstates.org

Curtis Cunningham
PRESIDENT
Wisconsin

Kathleen Dougherty
VICE PRESIDENT
Delaware

Nels Holmgren
SECRETARY
Utah

Kathy Bruni
TREASURER
Connecticut

Kari Benson
AT LARGE
Minnesota

Kevin Hancock
AT LARGE
Pennsylvania

Bea Rector
AT LARGE
Washington

Duane Mayes
PAST PRESIDENT
Alaska

October 25, 2019

Speaker Pelosi
Minority Leader
McCarthy
U.S. House of
Representatives

Majority Leader McConnell
Minority Leader Schumer
U.S. Senate

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader McCarthy, and 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 (formerly the National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities, or NASUAD) is a nonpartisan association of state government agencies and 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 serving as state-level administrators of the OAA's programs and services. 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.

On September 16, 2019, the House Education & Labor Committee introduced H.R. 4334, the *Dignity in Aging Act of 2019*, which would authorize the OAA for an additional five years. Then, on October 25, 2019, the House released revised bill text that made technical alterations to the original bill. We were pleased to see that the revised bill includes updated language within Section 301 that addresses the concerns we expressed regarding the Maintenance of Effort requirements for the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program. Additionally, we appreciate the bipartisan, bicameral coordination that resulted in a workable compromise on the funding formula known as hold harmless.

We are encouraged that the bill proposes significant increases in authorized funding levels and hope that appropriators will take note of this during the annual appropriations process. Finally, we were especially pleased to see the change to Section 202, that would raise the minimum funding level for state administrative expenses from its current level, \$500,000, to \$750,000. This is an important change that will benefit at least 24 states.



We appreciate the bipartisan efforts that have been made to reauthorize the OAA, and strongly encourage the full U.S. House of Representatives and U.S. Senate to quickly pass a bill to reauthorize the OAA to ensure that state agencies, AAAs, and local providers have adequate resources to serve our rapidly expanding population of older Americans.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide feedback on this key piece of legislation. 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: Chairman Scott, Ranking Member Foxx, and Members of the House Education & Labor Committee
Chairman Alexander, Ranking Member Murray, and Members of the Senate Committee on Health, Education Labor and Pensions