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Statement from Martha Roherty, Executive Director of Advancing States, Regarding President Trump Signing the Older Americans Act Reauthorization

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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ARLINGTON, VA – Advancing States and our membership are pleased that President Trump signed the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act (OAA) into law. The OAA provides funding for crucial services and supports, such as home-delivered meals, respite, and employment supports that allow older Americans to stay happy and healthy in their homes and communities. The OAA remains the backbone of a nationwide infrastructure of State Units on Aging, area agencies on aging (AAAs), and local service providers that provide person-centered care to millions of older adults. The OAA reauthorization bill that passed Congress provides some key updates to the current law, including raising the state agency administrative ceiling to \$750,000, a change which Advancing States strongly supported. The bill also provides key increases to authorized funding levels for the OAA that are crucial to ensuring our states and communities can meet the needs of a growing senior population.

During this challenging time, we must all remember the words of Dr. Flemming, who provided leadership in the formation of the aging and disability network. He once said: “For far too many people, old age means inadequate income, poor or marginal health, improper housing, isolation from family and friends, the discouragement of being shunted aside from the mainstream of life.” For those of us in aging and disability professions, our careers are dedicated to making sure this is not the case. The enactment of the OAA reauthorization provides us with additional tools and resources to support older adults live fulfilling lives in whatever place they call home.

We look forward to working with our partners at the Administration for Community Living, the AAAs, and the entire aging network to implement the new policies in the reauthorization as well as to address the needs of those individuals we serve during the current COVID-19 pandemic.

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