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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

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 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 urge the Education and the Workforce Committee to approve this crucial piece of legislation and send the bill to the full House for consideration.

Further, 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 Network to meet the needs of a growing, and increasingly diverse, population. We recommend that

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Colorado

the Committee pass the legislation without major changes so that the bill 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

