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July 14, 2015

Senator Mitch McConnell
Majority Leader
United State Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Senator Harry Reid
Minority Leader
United State Senate
Washington, DC 20510

President
Jay Bulot
Georgia

Vice President
Gary Jessee
Texas

Secretary
James Rothrock
Virginia

Treasurer
Lora Connolly
California

Past President
Lance Robertson
Oklahoma

Dear Senators McConnell and Reid,

On behalf of the National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities (NASUAD), I am writing to you to urge you to pass 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 in their state (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.

We are writing to urge that you bring S. 192 to the floor and schedule a vote on this important legislation. As you may know, today is the 50th anniversary of the day President Lyndon B. Johnson signed the OAA into law. Over the past half-century, OAA has provided crucial supports and services to seniors that allow them to stay healthy and stay at home. Yet OAA authorization expired in 2011, and its services have been maintained through the annual appropriations process without formal enacting legislation.

The OAA Reauthorization contains many modest improvements to the Act, and demonstrates a commitment from Congress to ensuring that seniors have access to needed supports and services. The legislation also contains compromise language regarding the funding formula, which has been a concern that prevented

passage of the reauthorization in prior years. While we believe that there are opportunities to improve S. 192, NASUAD encourages the Senate to move forward with the compromise legislation and pass the OAA reauthorization. Passing this important bill will reaffirm Congress' commitment to our nation's seniors, and will serve as a fitting way to honor the OAA's 50 years of successes across the country.

Please feel free to reach out to Damon Terzaghi of my staff at dterzaghi@nasuad.org or (202) 898-2578 with any questions.

Regards,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Martha X Roherty". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, stylized 'M' and 'R'.

Martha Roherty
Executive Director
NASUAD