



May 9, 2022

U.S. Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators:

With COVID-19 cases, test positivity rates, and hospitalizations again on the rise, the country is not past the pandemic. Now is not the time to ease up. I am writing to ask you to fully fund the White House's request for supplemental appropriations to support the nation's ongoing efforts to fight the pandemic.

Experts are predicting new surges in the late Summer and Fall, but we are in a much better position than we were earlier in the pandemic: we know what the tools are to confront COVID-19. Congress must act now so communities across the nation have access to these tools and are prepared to deal with the coming surges.

We must ensure test kits and testing locations remain available and accessible to everyone who needs them, and vaccines (including boosters) are readily available and robustly promoted. Treatments and therapeutics must also be easy to find and access, while research to find new tests, vaccines, and treatments continue.

In addition to addressing the entire population's needs, Congress must act swiftly to protect those most at risk. Older adults are the most highly vaccinated segment of the U.S. but are also especially vulnerable to COVID and breakthrough infections. When they do contract COVID, they are the most likely to suffer severe and long periods of symptoms, be hospitalized, and, unfortunately, lose the battle.

LeadingAge represents more than 5,000 nonprofit aging services providers and other mission-driven organizations touching millions of lives every day—including nursing homes, assisted living, life plan communities, home and community-based providers, home health, hospice, and low-income senior housing.

Aging services providers serve older adults wherever they live and many of the individuals supported by aging services are the population's "oldest-old," and among the most at-risk in terms of health status, immunity, and functional impairments.

LeadingAge members can ensure those they serve and care for have access to tests, vaccines, and treatments – if those resources are available. We are counting on Congress to continue funding these essential tools.

I urge Congress to fully fund the White House's emergency COVID relief measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katie Smith Sloan". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Katie Smith Sloan
President & CEO
LeadingAge