



The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Democratic Leader
U.S. Senate
U.S. Capitol Building, S-221
Washington, DC 20510

CC: Members, Senate Democratic Caucus

August 9, 2021

Dear Senators:

On behalf of the more than 5,000 nonprofit aging services providers and other mission-minded organizations LeadingAge represents, I urge you to do everything possible to meet the needs of older adults and support the dedicated staff who serve them by adopting budget reconciliation directives to committees that can accommodate the nation's multiple aging services needs, including for affordable housing, home and community-based services, and workforce.

The needs of older adults and their caregivers must not be short-changed by this historic investment package. The reconciliation directives must be sufficient to allow investments for the nation's most pressing aging services needs, including:

- \$400 billion for Home and Community Based Services to allow more older adults to get the help they need to grow older wherever they call home, including increasing pay for the staff who provide the help.
- \$7.5 billion to address the nation's shortage of affordable housing for older adults with very low incomes through HUD's Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly program.
- \$55 billion to increase Medicaid reimbursement for nursing homes so they can pay wages that enable them to recruit and retain staff, especially front line workers.
- \$1 billion investment in the aging services workforce to implement strategies to strengthen recruitment, career, and training opportunities that our nation's direct care workers need to care for millions of older Americans and people with disabilities.

These are critical pieces of the nation's aging services infrastructure, the needs for which have been exacerbated and exposed by the COVID pandemic.

Please don't let older adults down.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Katie Smith Sloan".

Katie Smith Sloan
President & CEO