

April 29, 2020



The Honorable Mike Pence
Vice President of the United States
White House Coronavirus Task Force
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue, N.W.
Washington, D.C. 20500

Dear Mr. Vice President:

Thank you for your leadership and efforts to address the coronavirus crisis, which poses a grave and growing threat to millions of older adults and the people who care for them.

LeadingAge represents more than 5,000 nonprofit providers of aging services, including nursing homes, assisted living, providers of HUD-assisted senior housing, life plan communities, community-based services providers, home health and hospice – the entire continuum of care.

I am writing to request a meeting with you to discuss how nonprofit aging services providers can engage with federal agencies in their COVID-19 response. Our members are deeply concerned when they see media reports that HHS, including CMS, and FEMA, are consulting only with for-profit provider associations—leaving millions of people whose health is cared for by thousands of nonprofit providers unrepresented in critical conversations.

I do not believe the federal government is intentionally overlooking nonprofit aging services providers and the more than two million older adults LeadingAge members serve across the country. However, that is exactly how it appears to these hard working, mission driven providers, who are facing some of the deadliest outbreaks of coronavirus across the country. At least 10,000 people have died of COVID-19 at nursing homes alone, and more are dying every day.

It's also important to understand that efforts to reopen our communities will require protection, testing, and medical supplies for older Americans regardless of where they are housed. Otherwise, our communities will be ground zero for a new wave of preventable deaths and illnesses—which will further tax our beleaguered hospitals and health care providers.

We appreciate all you are doing and would like to meet with you in the very near future to discuss the critical role our members are playing on the front lines of battling COVID-19, and how we can help coordinate with nonprofit aging services providers.

Please contact me or have your staff contact Ruth Katz, SVP for Policy, at rkatz@leadingage.org or 202 -508-9470 with any follow up or questions.

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 and CEO
LeadingAge