



Dear President Biden,

Thank you for your continued attention to older adults and the dedicated aging services providers and care professionals who support them. With 10,000 Americans turning 65 each day and the first Baby Boomer turning 80 in just two years, the nation needs your leadership as it adapts structurally, economically, and culturally to this profound demographic shift.

In the United States, the federal government's focus on aging has developed through informal networking from the bottom up and without designated leadership. At the same time, many other countries have taken a "whole of government" approach to ensure programs and supports are in place and well-coordinated to appropriately care for their aging population, such as Singapore, Japan, Israel, and Germany. The unfortunate result of our scattered approach is severely inadequate support for older adults in our country and redundancies and gaps across programs. This affects quality of life for older individuals and takes extraordinary tolls on communities and families, particularly those of color.

It is time to position aging issues in the White House with a strong and visible presence.

The responsibility of building an infrastructure that supports aging lies not within one department or agency, but involves many: transportation, housing, income security, health and long-term care, food security, to name a few. We're grateful there are several federal agencies addressing aging issues but the siloed approach to their work leaves many gaps. With centralized and strategic coordination and executive leadership and vision, those gaps can begin to close as the nation prepares to properly support and care for a population that continues to age.

The Domestic Policy Office should institute an Office on Aging Policy, just as it includes an Office on Disability Policy to coordinate policy across multiple, diverse agencies.

We believe a first step in the right direction to providing strong, centralized leadership and vision is an Office on Aging Policy in the White House and have provided a detailed rationale for such an office in the attached brief. We appreciate your consideration and remind you that LeadingAge would welcome the opportunity to assist in establishing a White House Office on Aging Policy that will effectively prepare our country for a significant demographic shift with widespread impact.

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