



March 26, 2021

The Honorable Maxine Waters
Chairwoman, House Committee on Financial
Services

The Honorable Sherrod Brown
Chair, Senate Committee on Banking, Housing,
and Urban Affairs

The Honorable Emanuel Cleaver
Chair, Financial Services Subcommittee on
Housing, Community Development and Insurance

The Honorable Tina Smith
Chair, Senate Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs
Subcommittee on Housing, Transportation, and
Community Development

Dear Chairs Waters, Brown, Cleaver, and Smith:

I am writing to express LeadingAge's affordable senior housing priorities for any infrastructure package. We are grateful for your leadership on these issues as well as your work to include critically needed affordable senior housing resources in any infrastructure package.

- **Expand the supply of senior affordable housing** by investing \$2.5 billion in HUD's Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly program. A \$2.5 billion investment for capital advances and project rental assistance contracts will provide approximately 54,000 affordable senior homes through HUD's Section 202 Housing for the Elderly program. Today, 2.6 million older adult renter households spend more than half of their incomes on housing, too often forcing them to choose between rent, food, and medicine. This \$2.5 billion proposal is consistent with the 116th Congress's S. 2951, H.R. 5187, and H.R. 2, the House-passed Moving Forward Act.
- **Provide internet access in affordable housing** to ensure the more than 2.2 million older adults in federally subsidized affordable housing buildings have basic internet access. This can be achieved by updating HUD, Treasury, and USDA utility definitions to include broadband as a subsidized utility and updating the subsidized housing infrastructure by retrofitting units with the necessary wiring for high-quality broadband. We urge any package to include the Broadband Justice Act, H.R. 1904, which authorizes \$5 billion for broadband as a utility and such sums as may be necessary for wiring and installation for HUD, USDA, and Low Income Housing Tax Credit homes.
- **Establish a capital pool for age-friendly retrofits** to meet building design needs in the HUD-subsidized housing stock. LeadingAge supports a \$1 billion pool of capital funds, administered by HUD under a new Age-Friendly Retrofit Program, to help current and future older adult households live in independent housing for as long as they choose to do so.

LeadingAge, which represents more than 5,000 nonprofit aging services providers, including federally subsidized affordable senior housing communities, thanks you for your leadership and looks forward to working with you to support a strong infrastructure package for older adults and the providers who serve them. Should you have any questions, please reach out to LeadingAge vice president for housing policy, Linda Couch, lcouch@leadingage.org.

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