

May 9, 2017

The Honorable Susan Collins  
United States Senate  
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin  
United States Senate  
709 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Collins and Senator Baldwin:

Thank you for your efforts to work on a bipartisan basis to support family caregivers. We, the undersigned, write in support of the Recognize, Assist, Include, Support, and Engage (RAISE) Family Caregivers Act (S. 1028).

Family caregivers are the backbone of services and supports in this country. They help make it possible for older adults and people with disabilities to live independently in their homes and communities. About 40 million family caregivers provide about \$470 billion annually in unpaid care to their loved ones. About 3.7 million family caregivers provide care to a child under age 18 because of a medical, behavioral, or other condition or disability, and 6.5 million family caregivers assist both adults and children. Our country relies on the contributions family caregivers make and should recognize and support them.

The RAISE Family Caregivers Act would implement the federal Commission on Long-Term Care's bipartisan recommendation that Congress require the development of a national strategy to support family caregivers. The bill would create an advisory body to bring together representatives from both the private and public sectors to advise and make recommendations. The strategy would identify specific actions that communities, providers, employers, government, and others can take to recognize and support family caregivers and be updated. The RAISE Family Caregivers Act is also consistent with a recommendation last year by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine calling for a national family caregiver strategy.

By supporting family caregivers, we can help people live at home where they want to be, helping to delay or prevent more costly care and unnecessary hospitalizations, saving taxpayer dollars. We appreciate your bipartisan leadership and are committed to working with you to pass the RAISE Family Caregivers Act.

Sincerely,

AARP

Allies for Independence

Alzheimer's Association

Alzheimer's Foundation of America

Alzheimer's Impact Movement

American Academy of Pediatrics

American Association on Health and Disability

American Geriatrics Society (AGS)  
American Health Care Association  
American Heart Association/American Stroke Association  
American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR)  
American Society on Aging  
America's Health Insurance Plans  
Association of University Centers on Disabilities  
Autism Society  
Autism Speaks  
Caregiver Action Network  
Caregiver Voices United  
Caring Across Generations  
Center for Elder Care and Advanced Illness, Altarum Institute  
Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation  
Coalition to Transform Advanced Care (C-TAC)  
Easterseals  
Elizabeth Dole Foundation  
Family Caregiver Alliance  
Justice in Aging  
Lakeshore Foundation  
LeadingAge  
Lutheran Services in America  
Lutheran Services in America-Disability Network  
Medicare Rights Center  
National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys  
National Adult Day Services Association (NADSA)  
National Alliance for Caregiving  
National Association for Home Care & Hospice  
National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a)  
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities  
National Association of Social Workers (NASW)  
National Center for Assisted Living  
National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare  
National Council on Aging  
National Hispanic Council on Aging (NHCOA)  
National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
National Partnership for Hospice Innovation  
National Respite Coalition  
Oral Health America (OHA)  
OWL-The Voice of Women 40+  
Paralyzed Veterans of America

PHI

The Arc of the United States

The Jewish Federations of North America

The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research

The Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving, GSW