

July 29, 2015

The Honorable Gregg Harper  
United States House of Representatives  
307 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kathy Castor  
United States House of Representatives  
205 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Harper and Representative Castor:

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 (H.R. 3099).

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. In 2013, about 40 million family caregivers provided unpaid care valued at about \$470 billion to adults who needed help with daily activities, more than total Medicaid spending that year. About 3.7 million family caregivers provide care to a child under age 18 because of a medical, behavioral, or other condition or disability. 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 relevant federal agencies and others from the private and public sectors to advise and make recommendations. The strategy would identify specific actions that government, communities, providers, employers, and others can take to recognize and support family caregivers and be updated annually.

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  
Advance CLASS  
Alzheimer's Association  
Alzheimer's Foundation of America  
American Academy of Family Physicians  
American Association on Health and Disability  
American Geriatrics Society  
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 Speaks  
Caregiver Action Network  
Caring Across Generations  
Center for Elder Care and Advanced Illness, Altarum Institute  
Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation  
Coalition to Transform Advanced Care  
Easter Seals  
Family Caregiver Alliance, National Center on Caregiving  
Genworth Financial  
Justice in Aging (formerly National Senior Citizens Law Center)  
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 Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare  
National Council on Aging  
National Hispanic Council on Aging  
National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
National Respite Coalition  
Oral Health America (OHA)  
OWL -The Voice of Women 40+  
Paralyzed Veterans of America  
PHI (Paraprofessional Healthcare Institute)  
Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving  
Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders (SAGE)  
The Arc  
The Elizabeth Dole Foundation  
The Jewish Federations of North America