

September 6, 2016

Chairman John Kline  
Committee on Education & the Workforce  
2176 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Robert C. Scott  
Committee on Education & the Workforce  
2101 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Kline and Ranking Member Scott:

We, the undersigned groups, write in support of the Recognize, Assist, Include, Support, and Engage (RAISE) Family Caregivers Act. This bipartisan legislation was passed unanimously by the Senate last December, and has been referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce. We urge the House of Representatives, facing a short legislative calendar the remainder of this year, to make this bill a priority and take prompt action on this important legislation.

Family caregivers are the backbone of services and supports in this country. They help make it possible for older adults, people with disabilities, and veterans 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. 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.

The RAISE Family Caregivers Act (S. 1719/H.R. 3099) 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 members of 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.

We urge you to support passage of the RAISE Family Caregivers Act in September. This bill is a commonsense step to help support family caregivers nationwide. We are committed to working with you to pass and enact this important bipartisan legislation as soon as possible this year.

Sincerely,  
AARP  
Advance CLASS  
Alzheimer's Association  
Alzheimer's Foundation of America  
American Academy of Family Physicians  
American Academy of Pediatrics

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 Jewish Family and Children's Agencies  
Association of University Centers on Disabilities  
Autism Society  
Autism Speaks  
Caregiver Action Network  
Caring Across Generations  
Center for Elder Care and Advanced Illness, Altarum Institute  
Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation  
Easterseals  
Family Caregiver Alliance  
Genworth Financial  
The Jewish Federations of North America  
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  
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  
Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving, GSW  
SAGE (Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders)  
The Arc  
The Coalition to Transform Advanced Care  
The Elizabeth Dole Foundation

cc: Members of the Committee on Education and the Workforce  
The Honorable Paul Ryan  
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
The Honorable Steny Hoyer