

June 28, 2018

The Honorable Alex Azar  
Secretary  
Department of Health and Human Services  
200 Independence Avenue, S.W.  
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Azar:

We, the undersigned groups, who supported enactment of the bipartisan Recognize, Assist, Include, Support, and Engage (RAISE) Family Caregivers Act (P.L. 115-119), write to urge immediate and effective implementation of this law to help better recognize and support our country's family caregivers. This is an issue that affects just about everyone. Most individuals are, have been, or will be a family caregiver or will need the help of one in the future.

Family caregivers are the backbone of services and supports in this country – they help loved ones of all ages live independently in their homes and communities where they want to be, helping to save taxpayer dollars by delaying and preventing more costly care and unnecessary hospitalizations. 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. Family caregivers help with daily tasks such as eating, bathing, dressing, transportation, medical/nursing tasks such as managing multiple medications, managing finances, coordinating services, and much more. In doing so, they take on physical, emotional, and financial challenges.

The RAISE Family Caregivers Act requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop a strategy to support family caregivers within 18 months of enactment. The law establishes an advisory council to bring together representatives from both the private and public sectors to advise and make recommendations. The law outlines specific timetables for action and deliverables. The strategy would identify recommended actions that communities, providers, government, and others are taking and may take to recognize and support family caregivers. The law would implement the federal Commission on Long-Term Care's bipartisan recommendation that Congress require the development of a strategy to support family caregivers and is consistent with a 2016 recommendation by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine calling for a family caregiver strategy.

We are so pleased that this legislation passed Congress with strong bipartisan support and was signed into law by the President. Now, your leadership is important to the law's successful implementation. We urge you to move forward with prompt implementation of the law. We stand ready to work with you and assist with implementation, and we appreciate your prompt attention to this important issue. Millions of individuals count on

family caregivers every day. Family caregivers are counting on implementation of this commonsense law.

Feel free to have your staff contact Rhonda Richards on AARP's Government Affairs staff at [r-richards@arp.org](mailto:r-richards@arp.org) or 202-434-3791 if you have any questions or need any additional information. Thank you for your consideration and we look forward to working with you to support our nation's family caregivers.

Sincerely,

AARP  
ACCSES  
Allies for Independence  
Altarum Program to Improve Eldercare  
Alzheimer's Association  
Alzheimer's Foundation of America  
Alzheimer's Impact Movement  
American Academy of Nursing  
American Academy of Pediatrics  
American Association on Health and Disability  
American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network  
American Geriatrics Society  
American Health Care Association  
American Heart Association  
American Network of Community Options & Resources (ANCOR)  
American Psychological Association  
American Society on Aging  
American Therapeutic Recreation Association  
America's Health Insurance Plans  
Association of Oncology Social Work  
Association of University Centers on Disabilities  
Autism Society of America  
Autism Speaks  
Cambia Health Solutions  
Caregiver Action Network  
Caregiver Voices United  
Caring Across Generations  
Center to Advance Palliative Care  
Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation  
Coalition for Compassionate Care of California  
Coalition to Transform Advanced Care (C-TAC)  
Easterseals  
Eldercare Workforce Alliance  
Elizabeth Dole Foundation  
Family Caregiver Alliance  
Family Voices  
Genworth Financial  
Gerontological Society of America

Home Instead Senior Care  
The Jewish Federations of North America  
Justice in Aging  
Lakeshore Foundation  
LeadingAge  
Lutheran Services in America  
Medicare Rights Center  
Motion Picture & Television Fund  
National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys  
National Adult Day Services Association (NADSA)  
National Alliance for Caregiving  
National Association for Home Care and Hospice  
National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a)  
National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities  
National Association of Social Workers (NASW)  
National Association of State Directors of Special Education (NASDSE)  
National Center for Assisted Living  
National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare  
National Council on Aging  
National Disability Rights Network  
National Hispanic Council on Aging  
National Multiple Sclerosis Society  
National Partnership for Hospice Innovation  
National Patient Advocate Foundation  
National Respite Coalition  
Network of Jewish Human Services Agencies  
Oncology Nursing Society (ONS)  
Oral Health America  
Paralyzed Veterans of America (PVA)  
Pediatric Palliative Care Coalition  
PHI – Paraprofessional Healthcare Institute  
Physician Assistants in Hospice and Palliative Medicine  
ResolutionCare Network  
Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving  
The Arc of the United States  
The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson’s Research  
Trinity Health

cc: Deputy Secretary Hargan  
Assistant Secretary for Aging and ACL Administrator Robertson