



August 31, 2018

Nancy LeaMond
Executive Vice President, Chief Advocacy & Engagement Officer
AARP
601 E St NW
Washington, DC 20049
nleamond@aarp.org

Dear Ms. LeaMond:

Thank you for your letter on behalf of all the signing organizations to Secretary Azar dated June 28, 2018, supporting the immediate and effective implementation of the Recognize, Assist, Include, Support and Engage (RAISE) Family Caregivers Act (P.L. 115-119). I am responding to you on his behalf.

Family caregivers are the bedrock of long-term services and supports and play an integral role in helping older adults and people with disabilities remain in their homes in the community. The Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and its federal partners support family caregivers in meaningful and impactful ways. Programs such as the National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP) and the Department of Veterans Affairs Caregiver Support Program provide information and referral, assistance, counseling, and training programs for caregivers.

While HHS is committed to implementing the requirements of the RAISE Family Caregivers Act, a key barrier to implementation of the RAISE Act is the lack of an appropriation to begin implementing the requirements of the Act in fiscal year (FY) 2018. The Senate has included \$300,000 to establish a Family Caregiving Advisory Council in the appropriations bill for FY 2019 it passed on August 23, 2018. In the event that Congress appropriates funding to carry out the RAISE Act, HHS will act swiftly to implement it.

I look forward to working closely with each of the organizations that backed the passage of the RAISE Family Caregivers Act to help ensure that the millions of family caregivers around the country who work tirelessly to support their friends and loved ones in their homes and communities are recognized, assisted, and supported.

If you have any further questions please contact Rick Nicholls, Chief of Staff, at (202) 795-7915 or Richard.Nicholls@acl.hhs.gov.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lance Robertson" with a long horizontal flourish extending to the right.

Lance Robertson
Administrator and Assistant Secretary for Aging