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January 27, 2015

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chair
Senate Committee on Health, Education,
Labor and Pensions
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Senate Committee on Health, Education
Labor and Pensions
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Richard Burr
Chair
Subcommittee on Primary Health and Aging
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bernard Sanders
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Primary Health and Aging
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Alexander, Murray, Burr, and Sanders:

On behalf of Lutheran Services in America (LSA), I am writing to thank you for prioritizing the health and well-being of older adults, families, and caregivers by introducing bipartisan legislation to reauthorize the Older Americans Act (OAA) so early in the 114th Congress. We are pleased to support this measure, *The Older Americans Act Reauthorization of 2015* (S. 192), and urge the U.S. Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee to favorably report the measure to the Senate without delay.

LSA is a nationwide network of more than 300 Lutheran health and human services organizations that touch the lives of one in 50 Americans each year. Our members serve low-income, vulnerable people of all ages, faiths, and abilities in a variety of settings across the country. Nearly two-thirds of LSA member organizations provide services to older adults, including home and community-based services, such as adult day; case management; caregiver support; and senior nutrition services; as well as person-centered senior residential and facility-based care, including rehabilitation; health care; and respite.

As trusted community-based service providers, our members greatly value the OAA - from the programs it authorizes to the people it serves and the infrastructure it creates. We support efforts to strengthen and sustain the Act, and applaud your commitment to a bipartisan reauthorization process that achieves these goals. In particular, we are pleased that S. 192 builds upon the OAA's 50 year legacy by protecting the Act's core programs while upholding its mission to improve the lives of older adults and family caregivers.

Thank you for your bipartisan leadership in bringing forth S. 192. We look forward to working with you and the Committee throughout the reauthorization process. If you have questions, please contact Lindsey Copeland, LSA's Director of Public Policy and Advocacy, at lcopeland@lutheranservices.org, or (202) 499-5832.

Sincerely,

Charlotte Haberaecker
President and CEO
Lutheran Services in America