

June 2, 2026

The Honorable Susan Collins, Chair
Senate Committee on
Appropriations
Room S-128, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Tom Cole, Chairman
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Patty Murray, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Room S-128, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro,
Ranking Member
House Committee on Appropriations
H-307, U.S. Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

Re: FY2027 Appropriations for the Lifespan Respite Care Program and the National Family Caregiver Support Program ((OAA Title III-E) and Native American Caregiver Support Services (OAA Title VI-C)

Dear Chair Collins and Vice Chair Murray, Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

To address the growing need to support family caregivers who are the linchpin of the nation's long-term services and supports system, we, the undersigned national, state and local organizations representing persons of all ages and disabilities and their family caregivers, respectfully request that the House and Senate Subcommittees on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies and House and Senate Appropriations Committees provide **\$20 million** for the **Lifespan Respite Care Program** in the FY 2027 appropriations bill, a funding level consistent with the bipartisan Member request led by Rep. Fitzpatrick and Rep. Dingell in a recent [letter](#) to the House Appropriations Committee.

We are also requesting significant investments beyond current funding for the **Older Americans Act Title III-E, National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP)** and **Older Americans Act Title VI-C, Native American Caregiver Support Services**. Along with the Lifespan Respite Care Program, the NFCSP is administered by the Administration for Community Living in the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

We are grateful for the modest increases to these programs in FY 2026. Continued investments remain very important. Respite and caregiver supports provided by these programs ensure a vital safety net for the nation's family caregivers of both children and adults.

These are challenging times for children and adults with disabilities, older adults, and their family caregivers. The critical shortage of qualified direct care professionals to provide home and community-based services and supports is threatening the ability of

individuals with disabilities and older adults to live at home and in the community. Moreover, the ability of the more than 60% of employed family caregivers to balance work and family responsibilities has become untenable.

At the same time, the Administration for Community Living's 2022 release of the National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers offers concrete actionable steps to support family caregivers, and ensure that people with disabilities and older adults can continue to live at home and in the community with support from family members. We have a unique opportunity in the FY 2027 appropriations bill to build on the increased awareness and momentum generated by the National Strategy, and implement the National Strategy's sound and reasonable recommendations for enhancing caregiver supports.

Caregiving provided by family caregivers of adults, who provide the vast majority of our nation's long term services and supports, is estimated at \$1 trillion annually. This care permits individuals to remain in their communities and avoid or delay more costly out-of-home placements.

In addition to huge cost savings that result, respite care has been shown to help alleviate the stress that may occur because of unsupported and ongoing caregiving responsibilities. In addition, national, state and local surveys have shown respite to be among the most frequently requested services by family caregivers. Yet, 87 percent of the nation's family caregivers do not receive respite. For family caregivers caring for someone with Alzheimer's disease, adults with developmental disabilities, individuals with Multiple Sclerosis (MS), ALS, traumatic brain injury, or rare diseases, as well as grandparents raising grandchildren, young caregivers, and military and Veteran caregivers, respite is especially elusive. Families caring for children, teens and adults with autism, physical disabilities or mental health conditions also can't find or afford respite.

Family caregivers are not using respite care because of financial and access barriers. **Lifespan Respite Care Program** grants are unique in that they help states start up new person- and family-centered respite options, connect family caregivers to services, and improve quality and build the respite workforce by requiring states to focus on respite provider training and recruitment. The program also helps family caregivers who struggle financially to pay for respite, but are not eligible for any other publicly-funded respite services or sit on long waiting lists for services.

The **Older Americans Act Title III-E, National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFSCP)** funds respite, counseling, support groups, and caregiver training for family caregivers, including older parents and relative caregivers of adults with disabilities. Despite documented positive outcomes for family caregivers reported in the NFSCP Outcome Evaluation from the Administration for Community Living, including the positive impact of respite and caregiver education on reducing caregiver burden, funding for NFSCP has not kept up with the increasing need in the growing older population.

In conclusion, these funding increases are necessary to meet the needs of people with chronic illness and disabilities, older adults, and their families, who have been under fiscal constraints over the past decade and continue to face considerable challenges due to the escalating direct care workforce crisis. By investing in Lifespan Respite and other family caregiver supports, the goals of strengthening the wellbeing of the nation's family caregivers, and of avoiding or delaying costly out-of-home placements and hospitalizations, can be reached.

Thank you for consideration of this request and for your ongoing support and recognition of the nation's family caregivers. If you would like more information, please contact Jill Kagan with the National Respite Coalition at jkagan@archrespite.org.

Sincerely,

National

Access Ready Inc.
ACCSES
Aging Life Care Association
Alliance for Aging Research
American Association of Caregiving Youth
American Association on Health and Disability
American Music Therapy Association
American Network of Community Options and Resources (ANCOR)
American Occupational Therapy Association
Association of Programs for Rural Independent Living (APRIL)
Autism Society of America
Autistic Women & Nonbinary Network
Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation
Disability Belongs
Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children (DEC)
Elizabeth Dole Foundation
Epilepsy Foundation of America
Family Caregiver Alliance
Family Voices National
Generations United
Lakeshore Foundation
Lupus Foundation of America
National Adult Day Services Association
National Alliance for Caregiving
National Association of State Directors of Developmental Disabilities Services
National Center for Pediatric Palliative Care Homes
National Disability Rights Network (NDRN)
National Down Syndrome Congress
National Emergency Child Care Network
National Respite Coalition
Pulmonary Hypertension Association
Self Advocates Becoming Empowered (SABE)
The Arc of the United States

The Carefullist
The Self-Direction Center
The Sibling Leadership Network (SLN)
USAgging
Well Spouse Association

State and Local

Alabama

Alabama Council on Developmental Disabilities
Alabama Lifespan Respite
Alabama Lifespan Respite Coalition
Joy Bells Alzheimer's and Dementia Ministries
UCP of Alabama
UCP of Huntsville and Tennessee Valley, Inc.
United Cerebral Palsy of NW Alabama
Via Health, Fitness & Enrichment Center

Arkansas

Arkansas Independent Living Council

California

ONEgeneration

Colorado

Colorado Center for Aging
Colorado Respite Coalition
Easterseals Colorado

Delaware

Easterseals Delaware & Maryland's Eastern Shore

Georgia

Caregivers Care Coaching and Consulting LLC
Lapapoe

Idaho

Idaho Caregiver Alliance

Illinois

Every Step of the Way Resource Center for Adults with Intellectual Disabilities, NFP
Illinois Respite Coalition

Kansas

Wichita Disability Consultants

Massachusetts

Greater Lynn Senior Services

Respiro Azul LLC

Tri-Valley, Inc.

Missouri

Sandwiched KC

New Jersey

Family Resource Network

New Mexico

New Mexico Caregivers Coalition

New Mexico Aging and Long-Term Services Department

Taos NM Lions Respite Caregivers Program

New York

Advisory Committee for the Cayuga County Office for the Aging

Allegany Senior Foundation

Allegany County Office for the Aging

Cayuga County Office for the Aging

Fulton Co. Office for Aging & Youth

Jefferson County Office for the Aging

Lifespan of Greater Rochester

New York State Caregiving and Respite Coalition

Niagara County Office for the Aging

Schenectady County Senior and Long Term Care

Schuyler County Office for the Aging

North Carolina

Alleghany Council on Aging

The Center for Volunteer Caregiving

Oklahoma

Oklahoma Statewide Independent Living Council

OKCares - Oklahoma Caregiver Coalition

Sooner SUCCESS

Pennsylvania

Delphi Provider LLC

Rhode Island

Family Caregiver Alliance of RI

South Carolina

South Carolina Respite Coalition

Tennessee

Better Options

Tennessee Association of Adult Day Services

Tennessee Caregiver Coalition

Vermont

Central Vermont Council on Aging

Vermont Aging Network Consortium Inc.

Virginia

Kin and Kids Consulting LLC

Washington

Ladybug House

PAVE

The Arc of Whatcom County

Wisconsin

Ashland County Aging Unit, Inc.

Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources, Inc.

Respite Care Association of Wisconsin

Wisconsin Family & Caregiver Support Alliance (WFACSA)

cc:

The Honorable Shelly Moore Capito, Chair
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education, and Related Agencies
Senate Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education, and Related Agencies
Senate Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Robert Aderholt, Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education, and Related Agencies
House Appropriations Committee

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, HHS, Education, and Related Agencies
House Appropriations Committee