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July 8, 2015

The Honorable Susan Collins
United States Senate
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin
United States Senate
717 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Collins and Baldwin:

AARP is very pleased to endorse the Recognize, Assist, Include, Support, and Engage (RAISE) Family Caregivers Act. Thank you for your efforts to work on a bipartisan basis to support family caregivers. Most of us are, have been, or will be a family caregiver or will need help to live independently. This is an ageless and nonpartisan issue.

Family caregivers are the backbone of services and supports in this country. They help make it possible for older adults and people with disabilities to live independently in their homes and communities. There are about 40 million family caregivers currently caring for adults. In 2009, family caregivers provided an estimated \$450 billion in unpaid care to adults who needed help with daily activities such as bathing, dressing, meal preparation, and transportation, more than total Medicaid spending that year. Our country relies on the contributions family caregivers make and should recognize and support them. Family caregivers take on physical, emotional, and financial challenges in their caregiving roles.

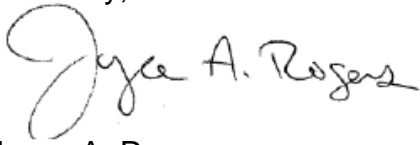
The RAISE Family Caregivers Act would require the development of a national strategy to support family caregivers. The bill would create an advisory body to bring together relevant federal agencies and others from the private and public sectors to advise and make recommendations. The strategy would identify specific actions that government, communities, providers, employers, and others can take to recognize and support family caregivers and be updated annually.

By supporting family caregivers, we can help people stay at home where they want to be, helping to delay or prevent more costly nursing home care and unnecessary hospitalizations, and saving taxpayer dollars. We appreciate your bipartisan leadership and are committed to working with you to pass the RAISE Family Caregivers Act this year. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, or have your staff

Real Possibilities

contact Rhonda Richards on our Government Affairs staff at (202) 434-3770 or richards@aarp.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joyce A. Rogers". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "J".

Joyce A. Rogers
Senior Vice President
Government Affairs