

September 29, 2021

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker of the House
U.S. House of Representatives
1236 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Republican Leader
U.S. House of Representatives
2468 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi and Leader McCarthy:

We, the undersigned organizations and companies who support the Credit for Caring Act (H.R. 3321), applaud the inclusion of a family caregiver tax credit consistent with this bill in the legislation approved by the House Ways & Means Committee on September 15. We urge you to include this family caregiver tax credit in the final version of the budget reconciliation package. The committee took this important action to support family caregivers and we ask you to do the same.

Family caregivers are the backbone of services and supports in this country. They help make it possible for older adults, people with disabilities, and veterans to live independently in their homes and communities. 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 all ages, races, and ethnicities and cut across all segments of our population. The physical, emotional, and financial challenges they face in their caregiving roles cannot be overstated and, for many, the challenges have increased with COVID-19.

There is also a significant economic impact as family caregivers provide about \$470 billion annually in unpaid care to their loved ones. In addition, they face out-of-pocket expenses to assist their loved ones as well as potential income and retirement savings foregone. An AARP report found that family caregivers spend, on average, 26 percent of their income on caregiving expenses or \$7,242 annually. Hispanic/Latino and African American caregivers reported greater financial strain. Assistance from family caregivers helps save taxpayer dollars by helping to delay or prevent more costly nursing home care and unnecessary hospital stays.

The modified version of the Credit for Caring Act passed by the Ways & Means Committee would create a new, non-refundable federal tax credit of up to \$2,000 for eligible family caregivers to help address the financial challenges of caregiving. Eligible family caregivers caring for loved ones of all ages could receive the credit if the care recipient meets certain functional or cognitive limitations or other requirements. This tax credit would help family caregivers who care for non-dependents or who do not live with the person they are assisting.

We look forward to working with you to make this tax credit a reality for family caregivers nationwide. If you have any questions, please contact Rhonda Richards at r-richards@aarps.org.

Sincerely,

AARP
ACCSES
ADAPT Montana
Aging Life Care Association
Allies for Independence
ALS Association
Alzheimer's Association
Alzheimer's Impact Movement
American Association on Health and Disability
American Heart Association
American Parkinson Disease Association
Association of Asian Pacific Community Health (AAPCHO)
Black Women's Roundtable
California Association of Caregiver Resource Centers
Caregiven
Caregiver Action Network (CAN)
Davis Phinney Foundation for Parkinson's
Easterseals
Family Caregiver Alliance/National Center on Caregiving
Fight Colorectal Cancer
Healthcare Leadership Council
Home Care Association of America
Huntington's Disease Society of America
Japanese American Citizens League
Justice in Aging
Lakeshore Foundation
Little Tokyo Service Center
Lyft
Lymphoma Research Foundation
Medicare Rights Center
Mom's Hierarchy of Needs
myFloc
National Alliance for Caregiving
National Association of Chain Drug Stores
National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs (NANASP)
National Brain Tumor Society
National Coalition on Black Civic Participation
National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care
National Council on Aging
National Federation of Filipino American Associations
National Marrow Donor Program/Be The Match
National MS Society
National Partnership for Women and Families
National Respite Coalition

National Spine Health Foundation
Parkinson's Foundation
Pioneer Network
PMD Alliance
ShareTheCaregiving, Inc.
The Elizabeth Dole Foundation
The Michael J. Fox Foundation for Parkinson's Research
The Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregivers
Third Way
Triage Cancer
United Cerebral Palsy
UsAgainstAlzheimer's
Well Spouse Association

cc: Chairman McGovern, House Committee on Rules
Ranking Member Cole, House Committee on Rules