

*Thank you, Chairman Casey and our witnesses here today.*

*I am grateful for the opportunity to serve as Ranking Member of the Aging Committee*

*My priorities will include health care, workforce, housing, and broadband.*

*I will seek to bring more transparency and accountability to make government work better for older Americans and future generations.*

*I am dedicated to protecting seniors from runaway inflation and restoring fiscal sanity so programs like Social Security and Medicare will be secure for older Americans.*

#### *REFORMING MEDICAID TO SUPPORT HOME AND COMMUNITY-BASED SERVICES*

*By 2030, 1 in 5 Americans is projected to be 65 years old or older which means a nearly 30% larger aging population in Indiana.*

*The majority of seniors want to stay in their home as they age.*

*Medicaid is adapting to support this goal. Nationally, the share of spending on Home and Community Based Services now accounts for about 60 percent of spending versus institutional care.*

*In Indiana, that proportion is only 35 percent, but the Hoosier state is embarking on a major reform of Medicaid Long-Term Services and Supports to help more seniors age at home.*

*As part of the new plan, the Hoosier state envisions that 75 percent of future Medicaid beneficiaries who need Long-Term Services and Supports will receive them at home.*

#### *ON SUPPORT FOR CAREGIVERS*

*Increasing home services will pose a big workforce challenge. By 2030, Indiana anticipates an estimated need of 14,000 more paid caregivers, a 20 percent increase from today.*

*One in five Americans are family caregivers.*

*They provide 37 billion hours of informal care each year for adult family members and friends with chronic illnesses. This is valued at \$470 billion.*

*In Indiana, family caregivers get support from community organizations.*

*One example is the Cornerstone Lutheran Church in Carmel, Indiana.*

*Decades ago, members of this church recognized the need to support family caregivers, so they established what they called a Friendship Group.*

*Now Friendship Groups have grown across the state, helping family caregivers know where to turn for support.*

*Federal policies should support family caregivers.*

*The Administration's proposed Independent Contractor Rule will hurt caregivers by restricting independent work and the flexibility it offers.*

*74% of independent workers say they prefer the arrangement because it gives them flexibility to be caregivers.*

*Women who make up the majority of caregivers will be disproportionately harmed by restricting independent contracting.*

*The independent contractor rule would force many of these women to choose between giving up work entirely or going back to full-time work and hiring paid caregivers.*

### ON WORKFORCE SOLUTIONS

*Inflation is still high and widespread at 6.4%. This is driving up wages and making it harder for employers to recruit and retain new employees, including caregiving employers.*

*The Better Care Better Jobs Act would result in caregiving costs increasing over 15% for those who hire their own caregivers.*

*The federal government wants to rebalance spending on Long-Term Services and Supports from institutional care to Home and Community Based Services.*

*“Rebalancing” means shifting weight from one side to another. It does not mean adding more weight to a system that is already out of balance.*

*That is why I oppose the Better Care Better Jobs Act. Instead, Congress should support better training and credentialing for workers.*

*I reintroduced the bipartisan JOBS Act with Senator Kaine to expand Pell Grant eligibility to shorter-term job training programs.*

*For example, it will support training of Certified Nursing Aides.*

*I also reintroduced the Prioritizing Evidence for Workforce Development Act to fund education and workforce programs with proven outcomes.*

*This bill would help scale successful programs like the Goodwill Excel Center, which helps adults earn their high-school diplomas and provides training so they can enter high demand fields, like health care*

*Both these bills will help address the nationwide skills shortage and fill the over 11 million job openings in the United States.*

*I look forward to continuing to develop bipartisan solutions to this challenge.*

*Thank you, Chairman – I yield back.*