

# U.S. SENATOR BOB CASEY



**RANKING MEMBER** *Special Committee on Aging*

## **The U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging**

The U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging was first established in 1961 and granted permanent status on February 1, 1977, as a bipartisan Committee focused on issues facing older Americans.

The U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging has served as a focal point in the Senate for discussion and debate on matters relating to older Americans; including Medicare, Social Security, the Older Americans Act, disabilities, long-term services and supports, retirement security and employment opportunities for older Americans. The Committee studies issues, holds hearings, issues reports, conducts oversight of programs that impact the aging community and makes recommendations for legislation to the Senate. In addition, the Committee publishes materials to assist older Americans and those interested in public policies related to the elderly.



*U.S. Senator Bob Casey meets with Mae Krier, one of the original Rosie the Riveteers who served our Nation during World War II.*

## **Senator Casey's Leadership Role**

As the Ranking Member on the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging, Senator Casey is able to shape the Committee's agenda and advocate for Pennsylvania's seniors. He stands up for low-income and middle class families to protect programs like Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid. He works to ensure that every American family, no matter the zip code in which they live or the income they earn, has the peace of mind to know that they can retire with health and financial security. As an Aging Committee leader, Senator Casey is bringing issues important to Pennsylvania seniors to the policy-making table. During the COVID-19 pandemic, he is working on a wide variety of topics, including: protecting nursing home residents and workers, promoting home and community-based services, curbing social isolation and ensuring that the heroes on the front lines of this battle against the virus are justly compensated.

## **Senator Casey's Record of Fighting for Seniors during COVID-19**

As the Ranking Member on the Senate Special Committee on Aging, a member of the Senate Finance Committee and a member of the Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee, Senator Casey is working tirelessly on issues important to seniors during this pandemic.

- As part of the CARES Act, which was signed into law in March of 2020, Senator Casey secured over \$1 billion to protect seniors during the COVID-19 pandemic. This included \$200 million for home and community-based services, \$480 million for meals during the pandemic, \$100 million to support family caregivers, \$20 million to protect seniors as well as \$100 million to the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) and states to enhance infection control in nursing homes through surveys and inspections. This funding stemmed from Senator Casey's bill, the [Coronavirus Relief for Seniors and People with Disabilities Act \(S. 3544\)](#).
- Responding to public pressure from Senator Casey and others, CMS began releasing data on the number of COVID-19 cases and deaths from COVID-19 in nursing homes starting in May. The data showed that 11 nursing home residents and workers died every hour during the months of July and August. To address this crisis in nursing homes, Senator Casey introduced the [Nursing Home COVID 19 Protection and Prevention Act \(S. 3768\)](#) to provide \$20 billion in emergency funding to support states, nursing homes, intermediate care facilities and psychiatric hospitals. His legislation, the [Coronavirus Relief for Seniors and People with Disabilities Act \(S. 3544\)](#), would also help address the crisis in nursing homes by expanding access to home and community-based services (HCBS) through Medicaid.
- In April 2020, Senator Casey, alongside a group of Senate Democrats, proposed the [Heroes Fund](#). This proposal would provide premium payments to essential front line workers, including nursing home and home health workers, ensure the retention of essential workers and protect these workers with PPE.
- Senator Casey is a cosponsor of the bipartisan [ACCESS Act \(S. 3517\)](#) which would facilitate access to "virtual visits" with family members for nursing home residents and enhance the use of telehealth in nursing homes.
- As part of the CARES Act, which was signed into law in March of 2020, Senator Casey fought to ensure that individuals who receive Social Security would still be eligible to receive the COVID-19 Economic Impact Payments.