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May 22, 2020

The Honorable Seema Verma
Administrator
Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
7500 Security Boulevard
Baltimore, MD 21244

Dear Administrator Verma:

I am writing to recommend Diane Menio, the Executive Director of the Center for Advocacy for the Rights and Interests of the Elderly (CARIE), to be a part of the Coronavirus Commission on Safety and Quality in Nursing Homes (Commission). For over 30 years, Ms. Menio has been a stalwart advocate for the rights of older adults. The Commission will undoubtedly benefit from her expertise in its deliberations on how to assist nursing homes during this unprecedented crisis.

Protecting the rights of nursing home residents and ensuring their well-being has been the centerpiece of Ms. Menio's distinguished career. As an expert on elder abuse prevention, she developed abuse training tactics for practitioners and authored a book on the subject. In addition to many other boards and workgroups, Ms. Menio is currently a member of the Advisory Council for Elder Justice in the Courts sponsored by the Pennsylvania Supreme Court and has served as an adjunct professor of gerontology for St. Joseph's University and the University of Pennsylvania School of Social Policy and Practice.

Ms. Menio's organization is on the front lines of the COVID-19 public health emergency, responding to Pennsylvanians living in nursing homes and supporting their families. Through a partnership with the Pennsylvania Long-Term Care Ombudsman, CARIE operates a hotline that loved ones can call to raise concerns about the standard of care in any nursing home, and is supporting Pennsylvanians with COVID-19 questions and requests on a daily basis. Ms. Menio will bring an informed, on-the-ground perspective to the Commission's deliberations on COVID-19 and its impact on nursing home residents and families.

It is critical that the Commission have a strong advocate, like Ms. Menio, for the rights of older Americans to ensure that their voices are represented. Ms. Menio's expertise and decades of advocacy make her an essential member for the Commission. I reiterate my strong recommendation for her inclusion as a member of this important Commission.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Bob Casey". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first name "Bob" and last name "Casey" clearly distinguishable.

Robert P. Casey, Jr
United States Senator