

United States Senate

WASHINGTON, DC 20510

April 6, 2020

Dear Advocates for Older Americans:

Thank you for your efforts to ensure Congress included important policies for older Americans in the responses to the COVID-19 public health emergency. Now, we must work to achieve one of our most important goals: *increasing the resources necessary to stabilize and expand home and community-based services (HCBS) during this public health emergency.*

During this almost unprecedented public health emergency, continuing and strengthening HCBS is critical to reducing the likelihood of spreading the virus and essential for supporting seniors.

We invite you to join us in advocating for more funding and support for HCBS in any future Congressional package to address COVID-19 by sharing your stories, photos and videos about what HCBS means to older adults and the direct support professionals and personal care attendants who support them.

To share what HCBS means to you, please send your story to Casey_SeniorSpotlight@aging.senate.gov by April 10th. You can also share your story, photo or video on Twitter with the hashtag #WhatWeNeed and tag @DemsonAging.

Your voices are critical to the policy debate and help us determine what the most pressing needs are for older adults, their families and those who support them. Thanks to your advocacy, we were successful in obtaining a number of significant priorities that will help the aging community in the three pieces of COVID-19 related legislation that have been signed into law over the past month, including:

- Ensuring Social Security recipients will receive the COVID-19 relief rebates;
- Securing about \$1 billion in funding to support access to aging services in homes and communities, including for home-delivered meals, family caregiver supports, resources to protect seniors from exploitation, and other critical services;
- Covering COVID-19 testing and a future vaccine under Medicare with no cost-sharing;
- Temporarily increasing Medicaid FMAP to 6.2 percent;
- Extending funding for the Money Follows the Person program and spousal impoverishment protections until November 30, 2020;
- Making it possible for non-profits, such as direct service provider agencies, to apply for and receive Small Business Administration loans; and
- Providing resources to help nursing homes limit the continued spread of COVID-19.

While these accomplishments will help many people, our work is far from complete. These unprecedented times call for unprecedented levels of engagement, and we need your help to ensure that older Americans can continue to receive the services they need.

Thank you in advance for joining us in our advocacy for additional funds and services for HCBS services. You can help us fight for these important resources by sharing your story about what HCBS mean to you during the COVID-19 crisis and sending an email to Casey_SeniorSpotlight@aging.senate.gov, or by contacting your Senators and Representatives to support the policies in our legislation, S. 3544, *the Coronavirus Relief for Seniors and People with Disabilities Act*.

With your help we can achieve the goal of ensuring home and community-based services are available for all who need it.

Sincerely,

/s/
Robert P. Casey, Jr.
United States Senator

/s/
Sherrod Brown
United States Senator

/s/
Elizabeth Warren
United States Senator