

ASSISTED LIVING FACILITY CORONAVIRUS REPORTING ACT ENDORSEMENTS AND STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT

Senator Warren (D-MA), Chairwoman Maloney (D-NY), and Senator Markey (D-MA)

ENDORISING ORGANIZATIONS

American Public Health Association, Long Term Care Community Coalition, National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care, Social Security Works, Caring Across Generations, Public Citizen, National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, SAGE, Latinos for Secure Retirement, and National Asian Pacific Center on Aging

STATEMENTS OF SUPPORT

Georges Benjamin, MD, Executive Director of the American Public Health Association: “An overwhelming proportion of our country’s COVID-19 mortality has occurred in assisted living facilities – 43 percent of deaths have taken place in these settings despite representing only 11 percent of cases. We know that older adults face a higher risk from COVID-19; we also know that the confined, congregate setting of these facilities puts those adults and the workers who support them at a higher risk of transmission. To protect these individuals and limit the community spread stemming from these facilities, it’s essential that we exercise additional oversight in how these facilities report COVID-19 data. I applaud the introduction of the Assisted Living Facility Coronavirus Reporting Act by Senator Warren, House Committee on Oversight and Reform Chairwoman Maloney, and Senator Markey. The bill would put this much-needed oversight into place by requiring that states and assisted living facilities be held to a higher standard of reporting COVID-19 data. This data is essential for providing the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention and other public health agencies with insight into how we can limit the spread of the virus.”

Long Term Care Community Coalition: “Though seniors in assisted living are particularly vulnerable to COVID-19, their well-being has largely been ignored in our nation’s efforts to address the pandemic. We applaud Senator Warren, Chairwoman Maloney, and Senator Markey for taking this important step toward ensuring that assisted living residents, their families, and the public have critical information on COVID-19 cases in their facilities and the extent to which those facilities have the resources necessary to safeguard residents now and in the future.”

National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care: “The National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care (Consumer Voice) endorses the Assisted Living Facility Coronavirus Reporting Act. The need for transparency, information and data collection in assisted living is critical to protecting the safety and welfare of residents in this setting. The data will permit these facilities, and local, state, and national officials to better monitor the spread of COVID-19, identify the best interventions, and determine where resources and assistance are needed. In addition, it will allow assisted living facility residents, their representatives and families to know the status of COVID-19 in their or their loved one’s home. Mandated reporting for assisted living facilities, including reporting data back to January 1, 2020, will give us the information we need to truly understand what happened in facilities during the pandemic. We can then use that knowledge to better prevent and control COVID if there are additional waves of the virus or other infectious disease emergencies in the future.”

Justice in Aging: “While it’s clear from piecemeal data that people living and working in assisted living facilities, like nursing homes and other congregate settings, have been contracting and dying from COVID-19 at grossly disproportionate rates, we need to have a complete picture of what is happening in every type of residential setting in every state to be able to effectively respond to the crisis now and mitigate the risk of future outbreaks. Justice in Aging is proud to support the “Assisted Living Facility Coronavirus Reporting Act,” which will require assisted living facilities to report cases and deaths among both residents and staff by race, ethnicity, primary language, sex, sexual orientation, gender identity, age, and disability status. Collecting disaggregated data is necessary to identify

disparities and craft responses that address the systemic racism and other forms of discrimination that cause these disparities.”

Eagan Kemp, Health Care Policy Advocate, Public Citizen: “We are pleased to endorse this commonsense legislation that would allow better tracking of the prevalence of COVID-19 within assisted living facilities. With patients of such facilities at a higher risk for health complications from COVID-19, it is crucial to slowing cases of the disease and ensuring patients are being monitored properly. We applaud Senator Warren, Chairwoman Maloney, and Senator Markey for their leadership on this important issue and will be pushing for its rapid passage and enactment.”

National Asian Pacific Center on Aging: “The National Asian Pacific Center on Aging (NAPCA) offers our support and endorses the Assisted Living Facility Coronavirus Reporting Act. Transparent and consistent data reporting will allow facility staff, residents, and their families and caregivers access to the information they need in order to make important health and well-being decisions. We applaud Senator Warren, Chairwoman Maloney, and Senator Markey for their work to provide accountability to assisted living facilities during this health crisis and the intentional effort to collecting disaggregated data that will serve to highlight the critical nuances that are being overlooked.”