



National Association of State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs

March 18, 2016

The Honorable John Kline
Chairman, Education and the
Workforce Committee
2439 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bobby Scott
Ranking Member, Education and the
Workforce Committee
1201 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Kline and Ranking Member Scott:

The National Association of State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs (NASOP) is pleased to support your legislation, the Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act of 2016, which, among other things, would improve the capacity of State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs to advocate for residents of long-term care facilities.

As you are well aware, the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program (LTCOP) identifies, investigates and resolves complaints made by or on behalf of residents of long-term care facilities that affect their health, safety, welfare, or rights. Clarifying that residents have regular, timely, private, and unimpeded access to LTCOP services strengthens residents' rights and their access to our program. Addressing organizational conflicts of interest ensures the independence of the LTCOP, thereby ensuring that the voice of residents is carried to local, state, and federal governments. In addition, we support the bill's measures to prevent and respond to elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation through increased training and data collection.

We applaud you for moving the House version of S. 192 to reauthorize the Act in the 114th Congress. This sends a strong signal to the aging network and older adults across the nation that providing services to help older Americans stay in their homes and protect them from harm when they live in long-term care facilities is a priority for Congress. NASOP enthusiastically supports your efforts and this important legislation that protects the rights of all residents of long-term care facilities.

We look forward to working with you as the OAA reauthorization process moves ahead.

Sincerely,

Patty Ducayet, LMSW

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