

NASOP

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF STATE OMBUDSMAN PROGRAMS

October 26, 2019

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Speaker
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bobby Scott
Chair, Committee on Education and Labor
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Virginia Foxx
Ranking Member, Committee on Education and Labor
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader McCarthy, Chair Scott, and Ranking Member Foxx:

On behalf of the National Association of State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs (NASOP), I want to thank you and state our support of H.R. 4334, the Dignity in Aging Act. We wholeheartedly support the reauthorization of The Older Americans Act and congratulate your accomplishment of reaching the important milestone of bringing H.R. 4334 to the floor of the House of Representatives.

NASOP is an association of 53 state long-term care ombudsmen who lead the long-term care ombudsman program in our respective states, the District of Columbia, and the U.S. territories of Guam and Puerto Rico. As mandated by the Older Americans Act, the mission of the program is to seek resolution of problems and advocate for the rights of residents of long-term care facilities with the goal of enhancing the quality of life and care of residents.

We thank you for working with NASOP to include sections 301 and 302 in this bill. These changes ensure that new funding is not supplanted by reducing local, state, or other funding sources and updating references to fiscal years from 2000 to 2019. Changes also codify that the program may use these funds on the costs of volunteer management.

Again, NASOP thanks you and your staff for working so hard to get this reauthorization completed as close to the law's expiration date as possible.

Sincerely,



Patty Ducayet, Texas State Long-Term Care Ombudsman and Chair of NASOP Advocacy Committee

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