

more than 11 million seniors and their caregivers annually, and include, but are not limited to, home-delivered and congregate nutrition services, in-home supportive services, multipurpose senior centers, transportation, caregiver support, disease prevention and health promotion, community service employment, the long-term care ombudsman program, and services to prevent the abuse, neglect, and exploitation of older adults.

By keeping seniors healthy and in their communities for more than 50 years, OAA programs have also delayed or prevented the need for more expensive institutional care for many older adults, which is often paid for through Medicare or Medicaid. OAA services can effectively save taxpayer, state, and federal dollars and promote efficiencies within the health care system.

The Supporting Older Americans Act of 2020 builds upon both the House-passed Dignity in Aging Act (H.R. 4334) and the Senate-introduced Modernization of the Older Americans Act Amendments (S. 3057) to incorporate a number of important priorities articulated by stakeholder organizations. Most importantly, the bicameral compromise calls for necessary investments in the OAA by increasing funding authorizations over the next five years—a top priority of the undersigned organizations and the most critical need of the Aging Network authorized by the OAA.

Other priorities within the bill address research and demonstrations, Native American services, local planning and development, supports for those living with dementia and social isolation, legal services, nutrition, in-home supportive services, disease prevention and health promotion, multigenerational collaboration, and family caregiver supports. We appreciate that the Supporting Older Americans Act of 2020 preserves the numerous ways in which this Act works so well at the federal, state, and local level, on behalf of the older adults and caregivers for whom it is a lifeline to dignity, independence, health, safety, and economic security.

Thank you for your commitment to this important issue. The undersigned organizations represent a diverse set of stakeholders, and we stand ready to build upon existing momentum to swiftly advance the compromise bill through Congress and to the President's desk.

Sincerely,

AARP; Academy of Geriatric Physical Therapy, a component of the APTA; Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics; Advancing States; Aging Life Care Association; AHEPA Management Company; Alliance for Aging Research; Alliance to End Hunger; Allies for Independence; ALS Association; Alzheimer's Alliance Michigan State University; Alzheimer's Association; Alzheimer's Foundation of America; Alzheimer's Impact Movement; Alzheimer's Los Angeles; Alzheimer's New Jersey; Alzheimer's Tennessee; American Association For Geriatric Psychiatry; American Association of Service Coordinators; American Association on Health and Disability; American Council of the Blind.

American Geriatrics Society; American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association; American Network of Community Options & Resources (ANCOR); American Occupational Therapy Association; American Physical Therapy Association; American Public Health Association; American Therapeutic Recreation Association; Argentum; Association of Assistive Technology Act Programs; Baylor Scott & White Health; Better Medicare Alliance; Blinded Veterans Association (BVA); Brain Injury Association of America; Caregiver Action Network; Caregiver Voices United; Caring Across Generations; CaringKind; Center for Medicare Advocacy; Center for Public Representation; Cen-

ter to Advance Palliative Care; Christopher & Dana Reeve Foundation.

College of Psychiatric and Neurologic Pharmacists (CPNP); CommunicationFIRST; Community Catalyst; Congregation of Our Lady of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces; Corporation for Supportive Housing; Daughters of Penelope; Dementia Alliance International; Easterseals; Family Voices; Florida Agencies Serving the Blind; Feeding America; Food Research & Action Center; Generations United; Guide Dogs for the Blind; Health Benefits ABCs; Home Instead Senior Care; Home Modification Occupational Therapy Alliance-HMOTA; International Association for Indigenous Aging; Justice in Aging; Lakeshore Foundation; LEAD Coalition (Leaders Engaged on Alzheimer's Disease).

LeadingAge; Livpact Inc.; Local Initiatives Support Corporation; Lutheran Services in America; MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger; Meals on Wheels America; Medicare Rights Center; National Able Network; National Adult Day Services Association (NADSA); National Adult Protective Services Association; National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd; National Affordable Housing Trust; National Alliance for Caregiving; National Asian Pacific Center on Aging (NAPCA); National Assn. of RSVP Directors; National Association for Home Care & Hospice; National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a); National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities (NACDD); National Association of Counties (NACo); National Association of Development Organizations (NADO); National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs (NANASP).

National Association of Regional Councils; National Association of Senior Legal Hotlines; National Association of Social Workers (NASW); National Association of State Head Injury Administrators; National Association of State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs (NASOP); National Community Action Partnership; National Community Reinvestment Coalition (NCRC); National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care; National Council on Aging; National Council on Independent Living; National Housing Trust; National Law Center on Homelessness & Poverty; National Respite Coalition; NETWORK Lobby for Catholic Social Justice; Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies; Ohio Council for Cognitive Health; PHI; Planetree International; Prevent Blindness; Program in Occupational Therapy, Washington University School of Medicine; Region 10 LEAP; RESULTS; Retirement Housing Foundation.

Rossetti Enterprises Inc.; Sanford/Good Samaritan Society; Silvernest; Stewards of Affordable Housing for the Future; The Arc of the United States; The Association for Frontotemporal Degeneration; The Carroll Center for the Blind; The Episcopal Church; The Evangelical Lutheran Good Samaritan Society; The Gerontological Society of America; The Jewish Federations of North America; Trust for America's Health (TFAH); United Church of Christ Justice and Witness Ministries; United Spinal Association; UsAgainstAlzheimer's; Village to Village Network; VisionServe Alliance; WISER; Volunteers of America; Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement (WISER).

#### SUPPORTING OLDER AMERICANS ACT OF 2020

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, last night the Senate unanimously passed my legislation, the Supporting Older Americans Act of 2020. I developed this

important legislation with Senator BOB CASEY, who serves as the ranking member of the Senate Aging Committee, which I chair, to reauthorize and strengthen the landmark Older Americans Act. A bipartisan group of 24 Senators cosponsored this reauthorization, and 128 national organizations endorsed it. I rise today to commend this bipartisan achievement that will ensure that vital services for our seniors continue and are strengthened.

Since 1965, the Older Americans Act has helped to ensure that millions of seniors receive the support they need to age independently and with dignity. Administered by the Administration for Community Living, the Older Americans Act authorizes an array of services through a network of 56 State units on aging and more than 600 area agencies on aging, serving more than 10 million Americans throughout the Nation each year. OAA programs provide nutritious food, transportation, assistance to caregivers, and in-home services for older adults. These investments foster a sense of community for older adults and save taxpayers money by reducing hospitalizations and the need for long-term residential care.

As our population ages, demand for Older Americans Act services has grown. Our legislation extends OAA programs for 5 years and provides increased investments to meet growing demands. For example, one hallmark OAA program is Meals on Wheels. Last year, this home-delivered nutrition program provided seniors with 358 million meals. In many States, however, the need is soaring. In Maine, there is a waitlist of 400 to 1,500 people, depending on the time of the year and the location in our State. That is why it is so important that this bill helps to ensure that more seniors in need of nutritious food can be served through important programs such as Meals on Wheels.

At \$11 a day, a meal is far cheaper than the \$2,400 average cost of a hospital stay. Using Older Americans Act dollars, the Southern Maine Agency on Aging conducted a pilot study that provided seniors discharged from the hospital with 4 weeks' worth of food. The results were astounding—hospital readmissions were reduced by 38 percent—a 387-percent return on investment. On a national scale, the savings would be an astronomical \$51 billion annually.

Our legislation also includes several provisions to combat social isolation, which can have devastating health effects, particularly on older adults who are already vulnerable.

As the executive director of the Eastern Maine Area Agency on Aging, Dyan Walsh, said, The Older Americans Act is a great victory for the aging services network and those we serve. There are many important provisions in the bill, not the least of which is the focus on research to study the negative consequences of social isolation and loneliness which impacts so many rural older adults. We look to the future with a renewed focus to integrate innovative

strategies that will advance our mission to support communities and those who are the most vulnerable.

The Older Americans Act is a shining example of a Federal policy that works. Every \$1 invested into the Older Americans Act generates \$3 by helping seniors stay at home through low-cost, community-based services. I thank the dozens of stakeholders we have worked with over the past several months to reauthorize and strengthen OAA, including the Leadership Council of Aging Organizations, AARP, the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging, the National Alliance for Caregiving, Meals on Wheels America, the National Association of Counties, and the Alzheimer's Association. I ask unanimous consent to have these letters of support printed in the RECORD at the end of my remarks.

I urge my colleagues in the House to support this important reauthorization so that we can swiftly send it to the President's desk to get signed into law.

#### GAME CHANGERS STUDY

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, I recently had the honor of being welcomed by Game Changers, an organization based in Louisville, KY, devoted to guiding our youth toward productive and meaningful lives, for a panel discussion on the impact of violence in our community. The executive director of Game Changers is Christopher 2X, who I have known for many years and watched change the lives of so many Kentuckians through his advocacy, leadership, and community building efforts. In December of 2019, just a few months ago, Christopher showed me the findings of Game Changers's study on the impact of youth violence recently released by his organization. Subsequently, I asked him to organize an event in West Louisville with a panel of community leaders and parents to discuss the report and how violent crime affects the lives of Louisville youth.

At the event, we not only discussed the findings, but also heard from Louisvillians whose real-life stories are contained in the pages of those reports. Kentucky Education Commissioner, Dr. Wayne D. Lewis, educated us on the burden that violence has on children. However, the only way to grasp the true tragedy of violent crime is to hear from those impacted. I met with Deshante Edwards, who not only lost her son, Donte, but now sees her 6-year-old grandson subsequently lose focus in school. I listened as Krista and Navada Gwynn told me that, as a result of the murder of their son, Christian, their 17- and 11-year old children are too petrified to go outside. Only personal stories such as these truly demonstrate the extreme toll taken on children exposed to violence.

That is why I feel compelled to share Game Changers's findings on violence and its impact on our youth with my colleagues. Tragically, children are ex-

posed to violence in every corner of our Nation. I ask unanimous consent that this report be printed in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD with the hope that every Member of Congress will read it and work with me to create safer communities for our children.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows: ,

VIOLENCE IMPACT ON CHILDREN LEARNING  
The Christopher 2X Game Changers Target  
Education—Crush Violence

SHINING A LIGHT ON HOW GUN VIOLENCE  
IMPACTS KIDS

Kentucky Education Commissioner Dr. Wayne  
D. Lewis

“Children who grow up in violent neighborhoods seldom realize their way of life is not typical. Their lives may include regularly hearing gunshots through the night and sometimes during the day, losing friends, family, and neighbors to gun violence, and continually being fearful of becoming the victim of violent crime.

No parent wants that kind of life for their children, but that is what life looks like for children living in violent neighborhoods across the U.S., including children in some Louisville neighborhoods. The trauma they suffer is unlike anything children growing up in upper middle class or affluent neighborhoods could imagine. And the impact of that trauma, while often unrecognized, is significant; often impacting their ability to reach their learning potential at school.

Recognizing and responding to the trauma of students who experience violence has to be part of how we educate them. There is no way to reasonably expect students who have experienced such trauma to leave their fears, anxieties, and pain at home when they come to school. Instead, it is incumbent upon schools to help connect students with community resources as appropriate, and to do our absolute best to be sensitive to and accommodate students' social and emotional needs as we work to meet their academic needs in schools.”

Jenny Benner, Senior Director-Child Development Center, Chestnut Street Family YMCA

“As an early childhood educator, it has become more common to see children who have been affected in some way by violence. Many of the children we serve are too young to verbalize their trauma or stress. Because of this, we have to ensure early childhood educators have the training and support needed to help these children build resilience. We focus heavily on a child's social-emotional development and the first step is to make sure they feel safe and loved.

Once in a safe environment, they will open up to learn skills necessary to be successful in school and life. It is also important to teach problem-solving and how to resolve conflicts appropriately, using words. I believe this skill is lacking in some children and they are most likely to continue cycles of violence because that is all they know. This report shines a light on how important education is, even as early as infancy, and my hope is that this will start a dialogue about how we as a community can come together to serve children to our best ability!”

Jefferson Family Court Judge Derwin Webb

“When I was 15 years old, one of my good friends was accidentally shot and killed by a friend. A few years later, that same shooter was accidentally shot and killed by someone else. Today, we have kids killing kids—at random times—intentionally. Louisville, we are better than this. Guns have no names, bullets have no names, but our children do.

So, I am asking you to please, please stop the violence. I started YOUNG Men's Academy at Whitney Young Elementary, a mentorship program, to try to help, and I applaud this report and all efforts to bring attention to the needs of kids exposed to violence, and to help them reach their potential.”

Dr. J. David Richardson, Chief of Surgery, University of Louisville Hospital

“Having been involved in the care of the injured for over 40 years, I applaud the current focus on the downstream effects of gun violence in our community. As trauma surgeons, our team focuses on the “victim” or injured. We analyze their care and outcomes through our quality review process, but we have few, if any, mechanisms for examining the effects on families, neighbors, or others in the community who are impacted by this violence. I have been particularly concerned about the children who bear witness to these acts, even if they are not directly or physically injured. How can a growing, evolving, learning, adapting brain develop as we would desire in an atmosphere of uncertainty and fear? I have heard countless stories of the deleterious effects of these acts of violence and their negative impact on the culture and well-being of our neighborhoods. While it is cliché to state “our children are our future”, it is nonetheless true. The children who are exposed to gun violence in Louisville deserve better.”

Troy Pitcock, retired LMPD Major 2nd Division

“Gun violence has a horrifying impact on our youth. Witnessing it directly or the remnants of violence at police crime scenes are situations too many of our youth are exposed to, many times at such early ages. These situations have life lasting implications on children, at times creating a perception such violence is acceptable. A lack of parental support can enhance the believe to our youth that such actions are acceptable or even the proper method to deal with conflict.”

CHRISTOPHER 2X

Imagine you're a mom at home watching a video with your kids and their playmates on a Saturday afternoon when all a sudden your home is being riddled with bullets from a high-caliber weapon.

Bullets through the walls, furniture, shattering the oven door, while you scramble to get the little ones on the floor, covered with your body, and under a bed, to keep them safe.

No imagination is needed. This happened to my daughter Heaven, a child development specialist, who was with six children, ages 1-7, when her home was hit with gunfire from an AK-47 in the middle of the afternoon last Dec. 1. Two neighboring apartments in the new Shepherd Square complex just east of downtown also were hit.

While thankfully no one was physically hurt, the trauma from exposure to such a violent act can interrupt a child's normal development and ability to learn in school.

My daughter's experience and a spike in gun violence last summer—with teens shooting automatic weapons out of stolen cars, kids as young as 13 charged with murder—made me want to shine a light on the impact of gun violence on children and their learning.

As a peace and justice advocate for nearly 20 years, I know my daughter's experience is not unique. In all parts of our city, citizens report hearing gunfire to police every day and gunshots have been heard outside my daughter's apartment multiple times since the day her home was splattered with bullets.

In the first nine months of this year, 65 of the 73 murders in Louisville Metro were from