

MEMORANDUM

TO: Senator Collins
FROM: Kevin, Amanda, and Mark
CC: Steve, Betsy, Amanda, Sarah, Tim, Elizabeth, Brian
DATE: February 9, 2017
RE: **Mtg with AARP CEO Jo Ann Jenkins – Mon., Feb. 13th at 2:20pm**

You will meet with AARP CEO Jo Ann Jenkins and AARP Legislative Counsel David Certner. They would like to discuss AARP perspectives on Medicare, Medicaid and the ACA's age rating bands.

Issues and Points to Raise:

- **Senior \$afe.** AARP CEO Jenkins will be hand-delivering the attached letter endorsing your Senior\$afe Act (S.223). They are eager to work with you on the bill and on related efforts to help protect seniors from fraud.
- **Medicare.** They will raise concerns about premium support reform proposals, like those advanced by Speaker Ryan and now HHS Secretary Tom Price. They will likely tell you that transitioning Medicare to a defined-contribution system would shift costs to beneficiaries and increase their out-of-pocket (OOP) costs, potentially forcing seniors on a fixed income to forego medically recommended care. You have previously voted against the Ryan budget and oppose efforts to restructure Medicare in a way that could be harmful to seniors and disabled individuals who rely on the program.
- **ACA Age Rating.** AARP supports the federal 3:1 age rating established in the ACA, which keeps premiums down for the oldest ACA enrollees by requiring that premiums for 64 year-old adults be no more than three times higher than premiums for 21 year-olds with the same coverage. The 3:1 age rating band is widely understood to be one of the factors driving up average premium costs and discouraging the young and healthy from purchasing insurance, and many R proposals would set a looser 5:1 age band (Cassidy-Collins would allow states to determine age rating bands in Options 2 and 3). AARP will likely share estimates that changing the age rating limit to 5:1 would increase yearly premiums for an average 64-year-old with a silver plan by \$2,100 (from \$8,500 to \$10,600), while reducing premiums for a 21-year-old by only \$700 (from \$2,800 to \$2,100).
- **Medicaid.** They will raise concerns about Medicaid reforms, including block grants and per capita cap proposals. You have long opposed efforts to block grant Medicaid as you believe it weakens the entitlement nature of the program and would shift costs onto states. They may mention support for Medicaid reforms that include expanding home and community-based services (HCBS), which costs Medicaid about one-third of institutional care.

Bio:

Ms. Jenkins joined AARP in 2010 and she has been heading it since 2014.

Under her leadership AARP's vision was reimagined and redefined, challenging outdated beliefs and sparking new insights that allow people to adapt to today's realities of aging – with relevant solutions to everyday issues such as healthcare costs, financial security, digital and social connectivity, and career continuation.

Jenkins began her career with the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development, later moving to the US. Department of Transportation and U.S. Department of Agriculture.

She has served at COO of the Library of Congress. Today, she leads AARP which is the world's largest non-profit, nonpartisan membership organization, harnessing the power and passion of almost 2,000 staff members, 60,000 volunteers and numerous strategic partners.



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February 6, 2017

The Honorable Susan M. Collins
United States Senate
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bob Casey
United States Senate
393 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Collins and Casey:

On behalf of our nearly 38 million members in all 50 states and the District of Columbia, Puerto Rico, and U.S. Virgin Islands, AARP is pleased to endorse the bipartisan Senior Safe Act of 2017 (S. 223). This legislation protects individuals at financial institutions who disclose suspected financial exploitation of senior citizens to appropriate agencies, and requires the financial institution to provide training on identifying and handling of potential exploitation.

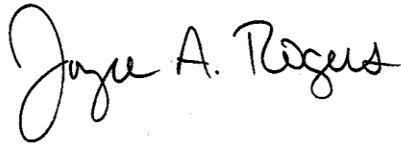
AARP has a long history of fighting for protections against the financial exploitation of older Americans and has been on the forefront of advocacy in support of federal and state laws and regulations that prevent this type of abuse. Elder abuse is an often hidden phenomenon that affects hundreds of thousands of seniors and financial exploitation is the most prevalent form of elder abuse. Every year, abuse and exploitation rob older Americans of \$3 billion¹ — and this is only the amount reported.

Recognizing that financial exploitation is a pervasive and increasing problem that specifically threatens our members' financial security, AARP supports strong legal protections against financial exploitation. AARP hopes this legislation is just the beginning, and we stand ready to work with you to forge solutions and bring safeguards to our members and the public.

Additional steps can be taken to include directly addressing protections on the consumer end, planning for incapacity, training for caregivers, and guidance on the common scenarios of financial exploitation. In addition, the bill can be further strengthened by including continuing education requirements and refresher training every 5 years for consumer facing individuals at financial institutions.

We look forward to working with you and your colleagues on a bipartisan basis to combat the financial exploitation of older Americans. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, or have your staff contact Jasmine Vasquez on our Government Affairs staff at (202) 434-3711.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joyce A. Rogers". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Joyce A. Rogers
Senior Vice President
Government Affairs

ⁱ "The Metlife Study on Elder Financial Abuse: Crimes of Occasion, Desperation, and Predation Against America's Elders" (June 2011)