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United States Senate

SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

WASHINGTON, DC 20510-6400

(202) 224-5364

September 10, 2019

The Honorable Benjamin Carson, M.D.
Secretary
U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development
451 7th Street SW
Washington, DC 20410

Dear Secretary Carson:

As the Chairman and the Ranking Member of the Senate Special Committee on Aging, we are working jointly to produce this year's Committee report on reducing the risk of falls and fall-related injuries. Over the past several months, the Committee has examined best practices in falls prevention for the home and community, assisted living facilities, nursing homes, and hospitals.

The U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development (HUD) runs critical programs to support safe housing for older Americans, which promotes falls prevention.

We respectfully request written responses to the following questions by September 26, 2019:

- The FY 2019 Transportation, Housing, and Urban Development Appropriations bill provided \$51 million for developing 370 new units of Section 202 Housing for Elderly and \$10 million for grants to repair homes for low-income older adults. What are the agency's construction standards for these new units and repairs, such as accessible bathrooms, community kitchens, recreational facilities, and other services that may help to prevent falls? How does the agency intend to ensure that the new units and the repairs promote falls prevention among senior residents?
- What is the agency doing to help build a partnership between housing and community development services, and public health and aging services to create senior falls prevention and coordinated care programs?
- To what extent does the agency coordinate with other federal agencies, such as the Department of Veterans' Affairs and the Department of Health and Human Services, to prevent falls in the older adult living environment?

We look forward to your responses. If your staff have questions, they may contact [REDACTED] from Chairman Collins' Office at [REDACTED] or [REDACTED] from Ranking Member Casey's Office at [REDACTED].

Sincerely,



Susan M. Collins
Chairman



Robert P. Casey, Jr.
Ranking Member