



601 E Street, NW | Washington, DC 20049  
202-434-2277 | 1-888-OUR-AARP | 1-888-687-2277 | TTY: 1-877-434-7598  
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April 7, 2016

The Honorable Joni Ernst  
United States Senate  
111 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Ernst:

AARP is pleased to endorse the Credit for Caring Act, and we thank you for your bipartisan leadership to support family caregivers. Most of us are, have been, or will be a family caregiver or will need help to live independently. This is an ageless and nonpartisan issue.

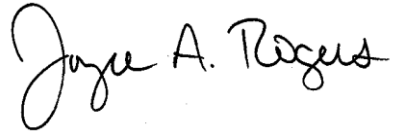
Family caregivers are the backbone of services and supports in this country. They help make it possible for older adults and people with disabilities to live independently in their homes and communities. There are about 40 million family caregivers currently caring for adults, including 317,000 family caregivers in Iowa. In 2013, these family caregivers nationwide provided an estimated \$470 billion in unpaid care to adults who needed help with daily activities such as bathing, dressing, meal preparation, and transportation -- more than total Medicaid spending that year. Family caregivers take on physical, emotional, and financial challenges in their caregiving roles. It is costly to family caregivers both in terms of out-of-pocket expenses paid to assist their loved ones and potential income and retirement savings foregone. The assistance from family caregivers saves taxpayer dollars by helping to delay or prevent more costly nursing home care and helping to prevent unnecessary hospital readmissions.

The Credit for Caring Act would create a new, non-refundable federal tax credit of up to \$3,000 for eligible family caregivers to help address the financial challenges of caregiving. Eligible working family caregivers caring for loved ones of all ages could receive the credit if the care recipient meets certain functional or cognitive limitations or other requirements. Additionally, family caregivers would not have to live with the care recipient, as many family caregivers may not reside with the person they are assisting.

As a country, we should support family caregivers as they take on the costs and responsibilities associated with caregiving. A family caregiver tax credit is one way to

help address these financial challenges. We appreciate your bipartisan leadership and are committed to working with you to pass the Credit for Caring Act. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, or have your staff contact Rhonda Richards on our Government Affairs staff at (202) 434-3770 or [r-richards@aarp.org](mailto:r-richards@aarp.org).

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