May 14, 2019

The Honorable Linda Sánchez  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2329 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC  20515

The Honorable Tom Reed  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2263 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC  20515

Dear Representatives Sánchez and Reed:

AARP, on behalf of our nearly 38 million members and all older Americans nationwide, is very pleased to endorse the Credit for Caring Act. Thank you for your bipartisan work 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 America’s care system. They help make it possible for older adults and people with disabilities to live independently in their homes and communities where they want to be. About 40 million family caregivers provide about $470 billion annually in unpaid care to their loved ones. Family caregivers take on physical, emotional, and financial challenges in their caregiving roles. It can be 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. An AARP report found that family caregivers spent, on average, nearly 20 percent of their income on caregiving expenses or nearly $7,000 in 2016. The assistance from family caregivers saves taxpayer dollars by helping to delay or prevent more costly nursing home care and unnecessary hospital stays.

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 offset a portion of caregiving out-of-pocket costs. 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. Importantly, family caregivers would not have to live with the care recipient, as many family caregivers do not reside with the person they are assisting, and they would not have to be caring for a dependent to be eligible.

AARP believes 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 rrichards@aarp.org.

Sincerely,

David Certner
Legislative Counsel and Legislative Policy Director
Government Affairs