June 18, 2019

Senator Deb Fischer  
United States Senate  
454 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Senator Angus King  
United States Senate  
133 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Fischer and King:

On behalf of AARP’s 38 million members and America’s 40 million family caregivers nationwide, I am writing in support of S. 1628, the Paid Family Leave Pilot Extension Act. The bill would extend the business tax credit for the paid family and medical leave pilot program, which is set to expire on December 31, 2019, for an additional three years. The pilot provides up to a twenty-five percent tax credit for employers that voluntarily offer up to twelve weeks of paid family leave to employees.

Unpaid family caregivers are the backbone of the care system in the United States, helping loved ones -- including older adults, veterans, and people with disabilities -- live independently in their homes and communities. About 60 percent of these caregivers work full-time or part-time. In addition to time spent at the office or on the job site, they devote, on average, 24 hours per week to tasks like managing medications, preparing and serving meals, helping their loved ones bathe and dress, and arranging transportation to medical appointments.

Paid family leave is an important benefit that employers can provide to support the family caregivers in their workforce. AARP research also shows that having caregiver-friendly workplace policies is good for business. In a 2017 survey of company benefit managers, 87% of respondents said that supporting family caregivers in the workforce can increase productivity, and 75% said that having a caregiving-friendly workplace would help attract and retain talent.

We appreciate your support of family caregivers and your leadership with this legislation. If you have any questions, feel free to contact me or have your staff contact Cristina Martin-Firvada, Vice President for Financial Security and Consumer Affairs at CMfirvida@aarp.org.

Sincerely,

David Certner  
Legislative Counsel and Legislative Policy Director  
Government Affairs