June 28, 2019

The Honorable Bob Casey  
United States Senate  
393 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Steve Daines  
United States Senate  
320 Hart Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senators Casey and Daines:

AARP, on behalf of its nearly 38 million members and all older Americans nationwide, is pleased to endorse S. 1999, the Improving Low Income Access to Prescription Drugs Act to permanently extend the Limited Income Newly Eligible Transition (LINET) program.

Older Americans use more prescription drugs than any segment of the population. In fact, Medicare Part D enrollees take an average of 4-5 prescriptions per month, and over two-thirds have two or more concurrent chronic illnesses. At the same time, the median annual income for Medicare beneficiaries is $26,200, and one-quarter of Medicare beneficiaries have annual incomes below $15,250. It is critical that every older American who needs prescription drug coverage is able to access and afford it, regardless of their income.

Currently, the LINET demonstration program provides temporary Medicare Part D coverage and cost-sharing assistance for newly-eligible low-income Medicare beneficiaries. In 2018, the LINET program helped nearly 800,000 individuals on Medicare enroll in Medicare Part D Extra Help. This program has helped ensure that low-income beneficiaries have continuous, affordable access to the prescription medications that they need. This is especially important for older Americans with chronic conditions who need uninterrupted access to their prescription drugs. Given the importance of this program to vulnerable older Americans, AARP supports your legislation to make the LINET program permanent.

AARP appreciates your leadership in helping to lower drug costs for older Americans struggling to afford their medicine. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me, or have your staff contact Amy Kelbick on our Government Affairs staff at (202) 434-2648 or at akelbick@aarp.org.

Sincerely,

David Certner  
Legislative Counsel & Legislative Policy Director  
Government Affairs