August 13, 2019

Dear Representative:

On behalf of AARP’s nearly 38 million members, I am writing to ask you to please add your name as a cosponsor of H.R. 1230, the bipartisan Protecting Older Workers Against Discrimination Act (POWADA).

Older workers are a valuable asset to their employers and the economy, yet more than 6 in 10 report seeing or experiencing age discrimination on the job. Discrimination is especially devastating when older workers are terminated from long-time jobs, and then face discrimination when looking for new work. More than half (56%) of older workers are terminated out of long-term jobs before they intend to retire, and even if they find a new job, 9 in 10 never again match their prior earnings.

H.R. 1230 is a bipartisan, commonsense bill that would restore fairness for older workers. The bill reinstates well-established legal standards on workplace discrimination that were undermined by the 2009 Supreme Court decision in Gross v. FBL Financial Services, Inc. and subsequent discrimination cases that followed its reasoning. Because of Gross, workers must meet a much higher burden of proof for age discrimination than any other form of discrimination. Age discrimination is just as wrong as other forms of discrimination and should be treated just as seriously under the law. H.R. 1230 would help level the playing field for older workers and restore their ability to fight back against age discrimination.

H.R. 1230 was voted out of the Education and Labor Committee with bi-partisan support, and AARP urges a floor vote as soon as possible. Please join Chairman Bobby Scott and Representative Jim Sensenbrenner to help restore equal employment opportunity for older workers by cosponsoring H.R. 1230 today. We look forward to working with you and your colleagues to pass this legislation in the House of Representatives.

Sincerely,

Bill Sweeney
Senior Vice President
Government Affairs