March 17, 2021

The Honorable Bob Casey  
United States Senate  
393 Russell Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patrick J. Toomey  
United States Senate  
455 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Casey and Toomey:

AARP, on behalf of our 38 million members and all older Americans nationwide, is pleased to support the Nursing Home Reform Modernization Act. We appreciate your willingness to work on a bipartisan basis on nursing homes and your work with AARP on this legislation prior to its original introduction.

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown a spotlight on some of the real challenges facing our nation’s nursing homes and the ongoing importance of safeguarding the quality of care, quality of life, health, safety, and well-being of nursing home residents and staff. Importantly, your bill would expand the number of nursing homes in the Special Focus Facility (SFF) Program to identify and increase transparency around those facilities with a history of serious quality issues and ensure they receive more frequent inspections. The legislation also includes vital consumer protections to help ensure appropriate oversight and accountability for nursing homes and requires consumer participation in an Advisory Council examining processes for ranking nursing homes prior to the establishment of such a ranking system.

Again, we appreciate your bipartisan efforts and commitment. If you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or have your staff contact Rhonda Richards on our Government Affairs team at rrichards@aarp.org.

Sincerely,

Bill Sweeney  
Senior Vice President  
Government Affairs