



October 24, 2023

The Honorable Edward Markey
United States Senate
255 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito
United States Senate
170 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senators Markey and Capito:

AARP, which advocates for the more than 100 million Americans age 50 and older, is very pleased to endorse the Alleviating Barriers for Caregivers Act (ABC Act). AARP strongly supports this legislation. We commend you for your bipartisan leadership to support our nation's family caregivers.

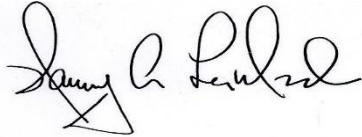
There are [more than 48 million](#) family caregivers in the US. They assist their older parents, spouses, siblings, grandparents, adult children, and other loved ones so they can live independently in their homes – where they want to be. Caregivers provide an estimated [\\$600 billion](#) in unpaid labor each year, saving taxpayers billions. Without them, America's health and long-term care systems would collapse. Caregivers help with everything including meals, bathing, dressing, medications and medical care, chores, finances, grocery shopping, transportation, and much more.

[Over half](#) (56 percent) of family caregivers advocate with care providers, community services, or government agencies on behalf of their loved one. [One in four](#) want help figuring out forms, paperwork, and eligibility for services. Among those coordinating care, [31 percent](#) find it difficult to do so. Caregivers say they are [stressed](#) emotionally (72%), overwhelmed by responsibilities (60%), and financially strained (55%). Time is also a [top challenge](#) for them. That's why the ABC Act is so important. It will help reduce red tape by requiring the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and Social Security Administration (SSA) to review their eligibility determination and application processes, procedures, forms, and communications for Medicare, Medicaid, Children's Health Insurance Program, and the Social Security programs to reduce administrative challenges for caregivers. They must report to Congress within a year on issues identified and findings, actions they are taking, an estimated timeframe for completion, any recommended changes in federal law to address identified issues, and more.

AARP strongly supports this important bill and looks forward to working with you to enact the ABC Act. This bill could help save family caregivers valuable time and reduce the stress they face in their caregiving role. We applaud your leadership in sponsoring this important bipartisan

legislation. If you have any further questions, please feel free to contact me, or have your staff contact Rhonda Richards of our Government Affairs staff at rrichards@aarp.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Nancy A. LeMond". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a large initial "N" and "L".

Nancy A. LeMond
Executive Vice President and
Chief Advocacy & Engagement Officer