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November 20, 2009

The Honorable Harry Reid
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Capitol S-221
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Reid:

NCCNHR and the undersigned organizations would like to thank you for including Nursing Home Transparency and Improvement, the Elder Justice Act, and criminal background checks on long-term care workers in the Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act.

The no-cost nursing home transparency provisions will enhance American families' access to information about the quality of care in nearly 16,000 nursing homes across the country that receive \$75 billion a year in Medicare and Medicaid funds, and they will improve the government's ability to ensure quality care and a better-trained staff in those facilities. Families will also have greater assurance that their loved ones receiving long-term care are safe if the people who provide care have passed a background check for previous criminal activity and abuse. The Elder Justice Act provisions will strengthen the network of agencies that investigate abuse and neglect in facilities and in the community, including improving the training of long-term care ombudsmen and state health inspectors, requiring reporting of neglect and abuse, and ensuring that residents are protected when nursing homes close.

The American population is aging. A healthy future for America's elders must include a long-term care system that is transparent, helps individuals make informed choices about services, and provides quality care, and in which there are strong public systems to investigate and correct abuse and neglect. Thank you for your continued support for nursing home transparency, criminal background checks of long-term care workers, and a strong elder justice system.

Sincerely,

Sarah F. Wells
Executive Director

cc. Senator Max Baucus
Senator Tom Harkin
Senator Christopher Dodd

On behalf of:

AARP

Alliance for Retired Americans

Alzheimer's Association

Alzheimer's Foundation of America

Center for Medicare Advocacy

National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys

National Association of Area Agencies on Aging

National Association of State Units on Aging

National Consumers League

National Council on Aging

National Senior Citizens Law Center

OWL: The Voice of Midlife and Older Women

Service Employees International Union