



February 23, 2010

The Honorable Joseph Biden  
Vice President of the United States  
The White House

Dear Vice President Biden:

I write today on behalf of the National Association of State Units on Aging, our members, and the seniors, family caregivers, and persons with disabilities they serve to thank you and the Middle Class Task Force for proposing the Caregiver Initiative.

NASUA represents the 56 officially designated state and territorial agencies on aging. In addition to administering the services funded by the Older Americans Act, many of our members also serve as the operating agency in their states for Medicaid home and community based services (HCBS) waivers that serve older adults, and in some cases, individuals with disabilities. We are keenly aware of the challenges facing many caregivers and strongly support efforts to bolster respite and other home and community-based supports.

This \$102.5 million Caregiver Initiative recently announced by the White House Task Force on Middle Class Families amounts to significant increases of \$50 million in additional funding for Older Americans Act Title IIIB supportive services; \$50 million for the National Family Caregiver Support Program; and \$2.5 million for the Lifespan Respite program. NASUA strongly supports this effort and urges Congress to act to enact the President's proposed funding increases for critical services for seniors, persons with disabilities and their caregivers, such as these.

Once again, thank you sincerely for your efforts on behalf of Middle Class Families and caregivers in particular.

Sincerely,

Martha Roherty  
Executive Director

**President**  
Irene B. Collins  
Alabama

**1st Vice President**  
James Toews  
Oregon

**2nd Vice President**  
Carol Sala  
Nevada

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