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AT LARGE  
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**Duane Mayes**  
PAST PRESIDENT  
Alaska

March 20, 2020

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Senate Majority Leader  
U.S. Capitol Building, Room: S-230  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker of the House  
U.S. Capitol Building, Room: H-232  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Charles Schumer  
Senate Minority Leader  
Hart Senate Office Building, Room: 419  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy  
House Minority Leader  
U.S. Capitol Building, Room: H-204  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Congressional Leadership:

On behalf of ADvancing States, I am writing you regarding the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19). ADvancing States is a nonpartisan association of state government agencies that represents the nation's 56 state and territorial agencies on aging and disabilities. We are writing to stress three main priorities for our members during this challenging time:

- 1) **Make sure that older adults and people with disabilities are able to eat**, by temporarily waiving the prohibition from providing three meals a day in Medicaid home and community based services (HCBS) and by ensuring that OAA has sufficient funding and flexibility to provide 21 meals a week for individuals served;
- 2) **Provide clear, consistent, verifiable information:** Aging and Disability Resource Centers and No Wrong Door systems are receiving substantially increased call volume due to fears about COVID-19 and require support to ensure that individuals have accurate information.
- 3) **Delay federal requirements to allow states to focus on disaster response:** state agencies are currently operating under challenging deadlines to implement Electronic Visit Verification and the settings requirements in the 2014 Medicaid HCBS final rule. Both of these mandates should be delayed by no less than one year.

If you have any questions regarding this letter, please feel free to contact Damon Terzaghi at [dterzaghi@advancingstates.org](mailto:dterzaghi@advancingstates.org) or 202-674-8582.

Sincerely,

Martha Konerty  
Executive Director  
ADvancing States

Cc: Members of the U.S. Senate  
Members of the U.S. House of Representatives