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February 5, 2018

Secretary Alex Azar
U.S. Department of Health & Human Services
200 Independence Avenue, SW
Washington, D.C. 20201

Dear Secretary Azar:

On behalf of the National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities (NASUAD), I am writing to congratulate you on your confirmation as Secretary of the Department of Health and Human Services. NASUAD represents the nation's 56 state and territorial agencies on aging and disabilities. Our members are responsible for the administration of a wide range of long-term services and supports (LTSS), including state-funded services, Older Americans Act programs, and Medicaid LTSS. NASUAD and our membership work closely with your agency, particularly with the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services and the Administration for Community Living, to administer these important programs. NASUAD supports visionary state leadership, the advancement of state systems innovation, and the development of national policies that support home and community based services for older adults and individuals with disabilities.

We look forward to working with you in your new role. We believe that there are opportunities for strengthening the partnerships between states and the federal government as we seek to improve supports and services for older adults, people with disabilities, and other individuals who require LTSS. We believe strongly in a collaborative relationship that provides flexibility for innovation at the state and local level. NASUAD has been actively collaborating with CMS and ACL since the beginning of this Administration, and we are excited to continue our partnership with HHS under your leadership.

We request that you keep the following priorities at the forefront of the agency's policy during your service as HHS secretary:

- Support and expand grants and funding sources that promote home and community based services for older adults and persons with disabilities of all ages;
- Protect and preserve important LTSS and health promotion programs, including Money Follows the Person, Community First Choice, Health Homes, and all programs authorized by the Older Americans Act; and

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- Promote state flexibility and innovation regarding Medicaid, Medicare, and long-term services and supports.

We again congratulate you on your confirmation to lead the Department, and look forward to our partnership as we strive to provide high quality, cost effective, and person-centered supports to older Americans and people with disabilities. Please feel free to reach out to our association at any time to discuss these important supports and services.

Sincerely,



Martha Roherty
Executive Director
NASUAD