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March 2, 2012

Senator David Heitmeier
District 7
3501 Holiday Drive, Suite 225
New Orleans, LA 70114

Dear Senator Heitmeier:

AARP represents nearly 500,000 members in Louisiana. State/community based and adult protective services are valuable assets providing significant benefit to older adults and their families. That's why I am writing to voice AARP's support of the integration of state based older adult services. This proposal is timely and critical in considering the future health and security of older adults in Louisiana.

After thoughtful deliberation, AARP's support is based on four factors:

1. Louisiana's 65+ population is expected to increase by 81% in less than 20 years as Baby Boomers start to turn 65. The older adult population of today is significantly different than the older adult populations of yesterday and tomorrow. State and community based services must adjust to the changing needs of their clients. Louisiana is not currently positioned to address this tsunami of older adults.
2. Current planning and financing of all state and community based services is not integrated or coordinated in Louisiana, and the opportunity to re- envision and innovate services and supports for a growing and aging population have been ignored.
3. The bifurcated system of protecting older adults does not make sense. Ensuring the safety of older adults through an integrated coordinated system is critical.
4. Louisiana needs to foster a collective, coordinated voice from the entire aging network in the state if it is to advocate effectively for changes in the Older Americans Act which provides vital funding for senior services.

AARP strongly believes the proposed reorganization and transfer is a unique opportunity to improve the financing and delivery of services and supports to the older adults of this state.

Recently I sent to you a copy of our latest report *Transforming Senior Centers into 21st Century Wellness Centers*. I encourage you to read the report which details recommended policy changes. More importantly, it discusses our rapidly changing environment where the needs and demands of older adults are dramatically different than those of prior generations.

The conversation about the importance of integrated coordinated senior services could not be more relevant. Please contact me personally if you have questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Nancy McPherson". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned to the right of the word "Sincerely,".

Nancy C. McPherson
State Director