Date

The Honorable Insert Your Senator’s Name

U.S. Senate

Washington, DC 20510

[AND/OR]

The Honorable Insert Your Representative’s Name

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

To Senator/Representative NAME:

I am [identify yourself] and am writing to urge you to support older adults and people with disabilities by supporting by including resources for Adult Protective Services (APS) in the next coronavirus emergency response package. APS services are more critical than ever before.

APS programs across the country respond to and conduct civil investigations of reports of physical, sexual, and emotional abuse, neglect, self-neglect, and exploitation of vulnerable older adults and people with disabilities. In [your state] APS responds to and conducts civil investigations of reports of physical, sexual, and emotional abuse, neglect, self-neglect, and exploitation of vulnerable older adults and people with disabilities. APS programs have been increasingly overwhelmed with skyrocketing reports and cases, while receiving increasingly inadequate funding. The COVID-19 crisis has only exacerbated that need.

The Department of Health and Human Services’ Administration for Community Living and the Department of Homeland Security’s Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency have recognized APS as essential, adequate funding is needed to follow through with this guidance. State and local government APS urgently needs $120 million to respond to abuse cases during the coronavirus pandemic and in the expected surge in reports during the aftermath. This funding would have a direct impact on local communities in all states.

[Include how the pandemic has impacted your program and future consequences. Some suggestions: Are there worker needs that have gone unmet? Are there client needs you cannot meet? How are your workers doing? ]

Once the pandemic subsides and people are able to emerge from their homes, APS administrators across the country expect a surge in the number of reports and cases as has occurred in natural disasters. [Identify the pandemics’ effect on reporting. Are reports down? If so, why do you think that is?] Direct funding to states for APS is important to address the issue of abuse during the pandemic and strengthen their ability to react quickly to a surge in reports which will follow the easing of COVID-19 related restrictions.

Support for APS is fundamental to protecting vulnerable older adults and people with disabilities during this crisis and subsequent easing of restrictions. Federal funding of $120 million for APS programs is a vital step to help members of our community who are being abused and exploited.

Please contact us with any further questions. Bill Benson, National Policy Advisor for the National Adult Protective Services Association, is also available (bill.benson@napsa-now.org).

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,