



# PROJECT 2020

Building on the Promise of Home  
and Community-Based Services



June 23, 2009

The Honorable John P. Sarbanes  
426 Cannon  
United States House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Sarbanes:

The National Association of State Units on Aging (NASUA) and the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) thank you for your leadership on H.R. 2852, *Project 2020: Building on the Promise of Home and Community-Based Services Act of 2009*. The bill's recent introduction is a major step forward in our collective efforts to improve the way long-term services and supports are coordinated, funded and delivered at the state and local levels.

On behalf of our members—the 56 State Units on Aging, 629 Area Agencies on Aging and 244 Title VI Native American Aging Programs across the nation—we appreciate that H.R. 2852 supports the charge given to the Aging Services Network in the Older Americans Act by providing resources to states to implement consumer-centered and cost-effective long-term care strategies. These strategies have been tested on a national demonstration basis and are now ready for full implementation. They include person-centered access to information, evidence-based disease prevention and health promotion activities, and enhanced nursing home diversion services, which would produce savings to both Maryland and the federal government by reducing growing costs under the Medicare and Medicaid programs.

Based on independent analysis by the Lewin Group, Maryland would be able to serve more than 253,000 additional residents over five years through *Project 2020*, while seeing a net savings in the state budget of nearly \$10 million over the same time period, and reducing federal Medicaid and Medicare costs by approximately \$2.8 billion.

NASUA and n4a wholeheartedly support the approach you have taken in H.R. 2852 to bring these vital programs to scale and to every community. Thank you again for being a tireless champion for long-term services and supports reform and an original co-sponsor of H.R. 2852. With your leadership, we look forward to working with you to encourage your colleagues in Congress to push for passage of the bill in health reform legislation. We must make access to these vital services available to everyone in Maryland and the nation.

Sincerely,

Martha Roherty, Executive Director  
National Association of State Units on Aging  
1201 15<sup>th</sup> St., NW, Suite 350  
Washington, DC 20005  
202.898.2578 / mroherty@nasua.org

Sandy Markwood, CEO  
National Association of Area Agencies on Aging  
1730 Rhode Island Ave, NW, Suite 1200  
Washington, DC 20036  
202.872.08888 / smarkwood@n4a.org