**The Pandemic is Not Over for <State’s> Older Adults**

**OR**

**Older Adults and COVID-19: Now Is Not the Time for Complacency**

Nursing homes and aging care providers have been working for months to protect <state’s> older adults from the threat of COVID-19. In the face of this virulent virus, they have faced heartbreak, shortages of life-saving tests and supplies, and personal risk to their health and safety.

Now older adults are facing a new danger: complacency.

Although the coronavirus curve has been flattened in some places, in many areas infections are spiking. Early reopenings and nationwide protests are increasing the number of people exposed to the virus. <LOCAL COVID STATS ON REOPENING AND/OR ANECDOTE>

On top of all this, a second wave of COVID-19 could arrive in the coming months.

Our older family members and friends can only be as safe as the communities around them. That’s why it’s so important that <STATE> and state communities around the country include clear protections for older adults as we move forward.

We need local policies that prioritize older lives, planned and conducted with caution, thoughtfulness and respect for the right and dignity of older adults. By working in collaboration with care providers, older people and families, <STATE> can help ensure safe and healthy progress. <LOCAL REOPENING SITUATION/PREFERENCES/IDEAS>

We must also ensure that aging services providers—here and around the country— have the PPE, testing supplies and resources they need to stem this speedy, deadly virus, so that we don’t create new crises that threaten our oldest residents. We cannot ask care providers to compete on the open market with cafes and gyms for the life-protecting supplies they need to make a safe and thoughtful reopening possible.

The thoughtful attention and resources for older adults required of our state’s leaders must be matched by that of Congress. It’s time for the federal government to step up and prove that they’re not walking away from millions of older Americans and their care providers as the pandemic rages on.

The only way to protect from infection spikes and second waves is to provide immediate access to ample and appropriate PPE supplies for care providers, along with access to accurate and rapid-results testing. In addition, LeadingAge <STATE> is joining our national association of nonprofit aging services providers to urge Congress to allocate $100 billion in new funding to help nursing homes and other aging services providers protect older residents and clients. We’re also calling for hero pay, paid sick leave, and health care coverage for heroic frontline workers who are risking their own lives serving older people during this crisis.

For older Americans, the coronavirus threat is not over. The good news is that we know what to do. It’s time to begin.

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**Optional addition for states with significant nursing home members:**

*It’s worrisome to hear about continued national shortages of live-saving supplies like masks and surgical gowns. The Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) promised shipments to every nursing home in America by the end of this month. Now they’re saying it could take through September.*

*Each day, new evidence is emerging that these shipments are frequently stocked with useless and expired supplies, and that the amounts provided can’t begin to protect older Americans and their care workers from the deadly coronavirus.*

*Instead of the CDC-approved masks that care providers need, FEMA has shipped thousands of cotton masks that are next to useless in dealing with a virus like COVID-19.  Others are past their expiration date or have broken straps. In place of gowns, FEMA has been shipping thousands of tarps that offer no protection against infections.*

*Here in our state, <LOCAL EXAMPLES OF BAD SHIPMENTS>.*

*We can and must do better for older Americans.*