



July 14, 2017

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chairman, Senate Committee on Health,
Education, Labor, and Pensions
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member, Senate Committee on Health,
Education, Labor, and Pensions
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Alexander and Ranking Member Murray:

On behalf of the National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs (NANASP) and Meals on Wheels America, we are writing to support the nomination of Lance Robertson for the position of Assistant Secretary for Aging and Administrator of the Administration of Community Living at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services. Together, our organizations represent the more than 5,000 senior nutrition programs across the country that provide meals to hungry and vulnerable older adults directly in their homes and/or in congregate settings, such as senior centers.

We are encouraged that Lance brings extensive experience in the aging and disability community through decades of public service. This is particularly critical as our nation faces unprecedented growth in the senior population and with it, a concomitant need for nutritious meals and companionship. We note Lance's dedicated service to our nation through a distinguished career in the U.S. Army and Army Reserves, where he served for over a decade, and his work as a gerontologist at Oklahoma State University. Perhaps most notably, however, Lance has served as the Director of Aging Services in Oklahoma's Department of Human Services for nearly ten years and is currently the second-longest tenured state director in the nation. He is a past president of the National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities (NASUAD) and also has great support from other members of the aging and disability network. Through his role as Director of Aging Services, Lance has experience working with a broad diversity of community-based organizations and has collaborated with disability partners through the development of No Wrong Door intake systems and the launching of the National Core Indicators – Aging and Disability Initiative. As an Oklahoman, Lance also has experience working with Native American tribes—an understanding and a relationship which is sorely needed in the federal government, particularly for improving Older Americans Act Title VI Native American services.

We congratulate Lance on his nomination and encourage the Committee to move toward a swift confirmation. At this pivotal time in aging services history, we need someone who can hit the ground

running on behalf of older adults and persons with disabilities. We are confident in Lance's ability to deliver, and we look forward to working with him toward that end in the weeks ahead.

Sincerely,

Handwritten signature of Robert B. Blancato in cursive.

Robert B. Blancato
Executive Director
National Association of Nutrition and
Aging Services Programs (NANASP)

Handwritten signature of Ellie Hollander in cursive.

Ellie Hollander
President and CEO
Meals on Wheels America