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U.S. House of Representatives Applauded for Passing Bipartisan Legislation to Address the Crisis of Social Isolation and Loneliness Among Older Adults in America

Washington, DC – Following last week’s unanimous passage in the U.S. Senate, the U.S. House of Representatives passed *the Supporting Older Americans Act of 2020* (H.R. 4334) legislation that reauthorizes the Older Americans Act (OAA) through 2024. The Coalition to End Social Isolation & Loneliness, a diverse set of national organizations including consumer groups, health plans, health care providers, technology innovators, patient advocates and more, applauds the House’s quick passage of the bill which includes provisions to support the aging network in addressing the epidemic of social isolation and loneliness among older adults in America. Specifically, H.R. 4334:

- Supports screening for the prevention of social isolation and the coordination of supportive services and health care to address social isolation and loneliness;
- Increases the Assistant Secretary for Aging’s focus on social isolation through the development of a long-term plan for supporting efforts to detect, prevent and raise awareness of the negative health effects; and
- Promotes research on interventions to address social isolation and loneliness by directing the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop a report on recommendations to reduce the negative health effects caused by the issues.

“We applaud the House of Representatives’ swift passage of the *Supporting Older Americans Act of 2020* and the inclusion of critically important language to address the growing crisis of social isolation and loneliness among older adults in the United States,” said Andrew MacPherson, Co-Director of the Coalition to End Social Isolation & Loneliness. **“The bipartisan approach to reauthorizing the *Older Americans Act* with provisions to support socially isolated and lonely older Americans demonstrates Congress’ commitment to addressing the issue, and we look forward to continuing to work alongside members from both parties to aid those suffering.”**

The Coalition to End Social Isolation & Loneliness brings together a diverse set of national organizations including consumer groups, health plans, health care providers, technology innovators, patient advocates and more to develop and advocate for federal policy solutions to address the epidemic of social isolation and loneliness. For more information, please visit: www.endsocialisolation.org.

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