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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

March 3, 2020

Multi-Stakeholder Coalition Applauds U.S. Senate for Unanimous Passage of Legislation to Address the Crisis of Social Isolation and Loneliness Among Older Adults in America

Washington, DC – Today, the U.S. Senate unanimously passed the *Supporting Older Americans Act of 2020* (H.R. 4334) which 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 inclusion of 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 thank members of both parties for their steadfast commitment to reauthorizing the Older Americans Act and including this important language to address the growing crisis of social isolation and loneliness in the United States,” said Andrew MacPherson, Co-Director of the Coalition to End Social Isolation & Loneliness. **“With more than 8 million Americans suffering from social isolation and chronic loneliness and the negative health outcomes associated with these issues, this critical legislation will ensure the aging network has additional resources and support it needs to identify and prevent this crisis. We urge the U.S. House to swiftly pass the legislation and for the President to sign it into law.”**

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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