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National Multi-Stakeholder Coalition Hosts First of Its Kind Event To Address Social Isolation And Loneliness On A Global Scale

Washington, DC – The Coalition to End Social Isolation and Loneliness, comprised of a diverse set of national organizations including consumer groups, health plans, health care providers, technology innovators, patient and family advocates, and community based organizations, is announcing a first of its kind virtual event: the *Ending Social Isolation and Loneliness Action Forum*. This international two-day event aims to publicly raise the visibility of the crisis of social isolation and loneliness, identify key innovations, promote policy solutions, and spur nationwide organizational commitments to action. It will be held virtually on October 13th and 14th.

The Coalition is honored to announce the event's keynote speaker, David Brooks, *New York Times* Op-Ed columnist, commentator on "The PBS Newshour", NPR's "All Things Considered", and NBC's "Meet the Press", author of a multitude of successful works including *The Road to Character* which was a number 1 *New York Times* bestseller, and is the Executive Director of *Weave: The Social Fabric Project* at the Aspen Institute. In addition to his keynote remarks, Mr. Brooks will be joined by Ellie Hollander, President and CEO of Meals on Wheels America for a fireside chat discussion.

The Action Forum will feature two addresses from a US Legislative perspective; we are proud to announce the Honorable Representative David Trone (D-MD), and the Honorable Senator Tina Smith (D-MN) will both be delivering keynote remarks. Congressman Trone and Senator Smith have been integral in introducing legislation aiming to address the negative effects of social isolation and loneliness and we applaud their continued leadership.

"The Action Forum will be the seminal event addressing social isolation and loneliness and aims to set a precedent of tackling the negative effects of this critical issue through innovation and pointed commitments to action," said Andrew MacPherson, Founder and Co-Director of the Coalition to End Social Isolation and Loneliness. "Social isolation and loneliness are boundless in those it affects; in addition to millions of Americans experiencing the negative side effects of this issue, we see that populations of nations around the globe face similar challenges. The Action Forum will showcase representatives from a variety of nations including Australia, United Kingdom, Germany, Canada, and Brazil; it is time this critical issue be brought to the forefront of the global stage so we may continue to work to eradicate it."

The Coalition is thrilled to announce that the Action Forum will also feature voices from a range of perspectives; these include Julianne Holt-Lunstad, Professor of Psychology and Neuroscience at Brigham Young University, Lisa Marsh Ryerson, President, AARP Foundation, and many more.

For more information on the Action Forum including registration instructions, please visit www.endsocialisolation.org/actionforum.

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