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Date: March 22, 2019

To: The Honorable Susan Concanon, Chair
House Children and Seniors Committee

From: Judy Bellome, Volunteer State President
AARP Kansas

RE: Support of House Bill 2404 –Creating the Kansas Senior Services Task Force

Good afternoon Madam Chair and Committee Members. My name is Judy Bellome and I am the AARP Kansas Volunteer State President. It is good to be before this committee once again. I thank you for this opportunity to present our comments in support of HB 2404, creating the Kansas Senior Services Task Force.

AARP is the nation's largest nonprofit, nonpartisan organization dedicated to empowering people to choose how they live as they age. With nearly 38 million members across the country and with offices in every state, Puerto Rico and the U.S. Virgin Islands, AARP works to strengthen communities and advocate for what matters most to families—with a focus on health security, financial stability, and personal fulfillment.

AARP has more than 318,000 members in Kansas. We are dedicated to enhancing the quality of life for all as we age. We advocate for legislation to protect services and options available to Kansans who are age 50 and older and we educate members and the community on issues that are important to not only our members but to all Kansans. Caregiving and financial security for not only those 50 plus but for all Kansans are top priorities for AARP Kansas.

AARP believes no one's possibilities should ever be limited by their age. Every day, we fight to remove barriers that stand between people and their Real Possibilities. We seek to find new solutions so that more people can live and age as they choose.

The demand for long-term services will continue to increase as our population ages. It is estimated that 53 percent of adults who turned 65 in 2016 will need some form of long-term care services during their lifetime. For many, Long Term Services and Supports (LTSS) cost more than they can afford.

AARP fights for issues that matter to people 50 plus and their families. Those include but are not limited to caregiving and caregiver support; quality of life and quality of care; financial security for all Kansans; affordable and reliable utilities; and support for our veterans, the military and their families to enable Kansans to have the opportunity to age in their homes and communities.

Since we have offices in every state and work on a wide range of issues in those states we have a vast knowledge and expertise on a great number of issues, including both past history and current happenings.

We partner with world leaders like the SCAN foundation, Robert Wood Johnson Foundation and The Commonwealth Fund in creating reports such as the AARP Long-term Services and Supports Scorecard. Documents such as the Scorecard can spark policy change while providing tools and resources so that states and other stakeholders can deliver a higher level of performance.

AARP conducts research on topics that matter to our members; provides insights and analysis on the motivations, needs, interests and behaviors of people 50 plus to support our social impact and advocacy work; and supports states' implementation of our strategic priorities in advocacy, service, and dissemination of information.

AARP Research develops best-in-class strategic research and insights to improve the lives of Americans 50+ and increase AARP's engagement and relevancy. Our rigorous and impactful externally-facing research delivers insights and thought leadership on critical issues facing consumers and their families and provides support for AARP's key campaigns and social impact agenda. The AARP Public Policy Institute publishes reports on people's shared needs for financial security, health care and quality of life as they age.

Members imagine and shape better lives with information and inspiration from AARP's publications and multimedia offerings. As a trusted source for news and information, we produce *AARP The Magazine*, the nation's largest-circulated and most-read magazine; *AARP Bulletin*, the definitive news source for members; an award-winning website, www.aarp.org; AARP television and radio programming; AARP Books; and AARP en Español, a Spanish language website addressing the needs and interests of Hispanics.

We thank you Madame Chair for your committee's consideration of the creation this Kansas Senior Services Task Force, which will bring together experts from across the state to consider and work together on solutions to the many aging issues.

We ask, as you discuss the creation of this task force, that you consider amended language that would also provide opportunities for a more direct role in supporting these Kansans for outside, non-profit organizations that touch Kansans 50 plus and their families – organizations like AARP.

Therefore, we support HB 2404 and ask to be included in this task force.

Thank you,
Ernest Kutzley