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Statement for the Record on the Senate Special Aging Committee's Hearing on the Older Americans Act May 26, 2011

Thank you, Chairman Kohl and Ranking Member Corker, for holding a hearing today on the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act (OAA). I am Sandy Markwood, CEO of the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a). n4a appreciates your Committee's leadership in conducting the hearing as a way to galvanize your colleagues in the Senate and to listen to older adults, caregivers and advocates, in order to start the reauthorization process in a thoughtful and thorough way.

n4a is proud to represent the nation's 629 Area Agencies on Aging and to be a champion in Washington, DC for the 246 Title VI Native American aging programs. We believe that the OAA is the critical cornerstone of aging services in this nation and that the 2011 reauthorization provides us with an opportunity to build on the successes of the Act in order to respond to the needs of today's and tomorrow's older adults and caregivers.

Our leadership is poised, prepared and ready to work with you to bring the entire Aging Network to a newly recognized role in bridging the medical and home systems of services and supports, catalyzing community and economic development to better meet the needs of older adults and people with disabilities, and empowering caregivers and individuals who need assistance in understanding the services and supports available in their community.

After a 16-month-long process to develop policy recommendations for the OAA reauthorization, n4a released a set of top recommendations spanning a dozen aging policy areas in April. That document, *n4a's Recommendations for the 2011 Reauthorization of the Older Americans Act*, is attached for your review.

n4a's Board, members and staff look forward to working with you and your staff as the reauthorization process unfolds. Thank you for your leadership on behalf of our country's older adults, people with disabilities and their caregivers.

Attachments:

n4a's [Recommendations for the 2011 Reauthorization of the Older Americans Act](#), April 2011

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