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**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

December 5, 2011

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**n4a Endorses Legislation Promoting Senior Mobility Options**

*Commends Senators Herb Kohl (D-WI) and Ron Wyden (D-OR) for their Leadership*

**Washington, DC** — n4a is pleased to endorse the Senior Transportation and Mobility Improvement Act, introduced today by Senate Special Committee on Aging Chairman Herb Kohl (D-WI) and Senator Ron Wyden (D-OR), which addresses transportation issues of critical importance to our nation's older adults and people with disabilities. n4a is a co-chair of the Senior Transportation Task Force, a workgroup of national organizations that advocates for public policy that increases the mobility of older adults and people with disabilities.

n4a CEO Sandy Markwood said, “We commend Chairman Kohl and Senator Wyden for introducing the Senior Transportation and Mobility Improvement Act. The next transportation reauthorization provides an excellent opportunity for Congress to advance this initiative and their leadership on this important legislation is much appreciated.”

“The last transportation authorization made significant progress in providing greater resources and instituting a new coordination planning process that has begun to produce real results in bringing key stakeholders to the table from the aging and disability communities in planning transportation services,” said Markwood. “However, there is much more to be done to ensure that there are adequate, accessible and reliable transportation options for older adults and people with disabilities. We look forward to working with Congress to see that the provisions called for in this bill are included in the upcoming transportation reauthorization.”

Older Americans represent the fastest-growing demographic in our nation, and they have an increasing desire to participate in the workforce, to age in place and to access social and health services. Their ability to achieve these goals largely depends on their access to transportation. n4a believes it is critical that Congress place greater emphasis on critical community transportation programs that provide a vital link between home and community for older adults and people with disabilities. Transportation is consistently at or near the top of services

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**National Association of Area Agencies on Aging**

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for which local aging programs receive the most requests. Without adequate transportation options, many seniors are at risk of increased isolation and may be forced into costly and unnecessary institutionalization.

Many communities face significant challenges as they seek to make public transportation more accessible and available for older adults and people with disabilities. A recent n4a report, *Maturing of America: Communities Moving Forward for an Aging Population*, funded by the MetLife Foundation, found that inadequate transportation options for older adults have emerged as a dominant concern for communities across the country.

The Senior Transportation and Mobility Improvement Act provides states added flexibility under the Section 5310 program for the Elderly and Persons with Disabilities to utilize funds for operating costs. The bill expands the transparency of the Section 5310 and 5317 New Freedom programs through new reporting standards, requires states to report annually to the Federal Transit Administration how they plan to coordinate their Section 5310 program with transportation services offered under the Older Americans Act, and strengthens the coordinated public transit human service planning process. It directs new resources to the National Center on Senior Transportation to provide technical assistance and seed grants to innovative community programs and establishes a supplemental FTA mobility management program for older adults and people with disabilities. [Summary of the Senior Transportation and Mobility Improvement Act](#).

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