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From: K.J. Hertz [khertz@n4a.org]

Sent: Friday, April 24, 2009 5:46 PM

To: laura@nysaaaa.org

Subject: Advocacy Alert: More Time to Make Calls on House Transportation Letter



April 24, 2009

House Senior Transportation Letter Extended; Still Time to Contact Your Representatives to Ask for their Support of Senior Mobility Programs

Urge Them to Sign the Enclosed Letter to House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee Leaders on Senior Transportation

New Deadline for Signatures: Thursday, April 30.

The *Safe, Accountable, Flexible, Efficient Transportation Equity Act: A Legacy for Users* (SAFETEA-LU), the major bill funding federal transportation programs, is up for reauthorization at the end of this fiscal year, which presents Congress with the opportunity to improve the availability and accessibility of transportation for older adults.

n4a co-leads a coalition of other national organizations to promote the inclusion of greater resources for federal senior transportation programs in the reauthorization bill. As part of this effort, we seek your help in garnering support for a "Dear Colleague" letter now circulating in the House, which urges an increased investment in transportation resources to support the growing needs of older Americans to allow them to remain active and age in place.

The letter outlines measures that should be taken in the reauthorization bill to increase transportation options for older adults. These include:

- adequately funding federal transportation programs dedicated to serve seniors, in particular the Section 5310 *Elderly and Persons with Disabilities Program*, under the Federal Transit Administration;
- providing more flexibility in the use of Section 5310 funds to help with increasing operating costs;
- enhancing mobility management services to provide education, resources

and services to older adults related to transition from driving and their mobility options;

- improving on the coordinated transportation planning process to better ensure senior mobility needs are addressed; and
- offering greater incentives and support to volunteers providing vital services, among others.

The letter that Reps. Bill Pascrell (D-NJ), Russ Carnahan (D-MO), Chris Smith (R-NJ) and Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R-FL) have circulated to their colleagues will eventually be sent to Rep. James Oberstar (D-MN) and Rep. John Mica (R-FL), Chairman and Ranking Republican, respectively, on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee, which has jurisdiction over the surface transportation reauthorization.

To view a copy of the letter, visit:

http://www.n4a.org/files/House_senior.transport.dearcolleague.4.6.09.pdf.

List of House Members that have signed onto the letter, so far:

Pascrell (D-6th NJ)
 Carnahan (D-3rd MO)
 Smith (R-4th NJ)
 Ros-Lehtinen (R-18th FL)
 Yarmouth (D-3rd KY)
 Filner (D-51st CA)
 Israel (D-2nd NY)
 Jackson (D-2nd IL)
 LoBiondo (R-2nd NJ)
 Massa (D-29th NY)
 Lance (R-7th NJ)
 Welch (D-At Large VT)
 Nadler (D-8th NY)
 McCarthy (D-4th NY)
 Brown (D-3rd FL)
 Gutiérrez (D-4th IL)
 Waxman (D-30th CA)
 Skelton (D-4th MO)
 LaTourette (R-14th OH)
 Schakowsky (D-9th IL)
 Berkley (R-1st NV)
 Moran (D-8th VA)
 Clay (D-1st MO)
 Blumenauer (D-3rd OR)
 Kildee (D-5th MI)
 Berman (D-28th CA)

Action Requested:

Contact your House Members to ask them to sign on to the attached “Dear Colleague” letter promoting senior transportation. *The new deadline to sign the letter*

is Thursday, April 30, 2009.

- ✓ **STEP 1:** Call the DC office and ask for the staff member who handles transportation or senior issues. You can reach them through the U.S. Capitol Switchboard at (202) 224-3121.
- ✓ **STEP 2:** Tell them about the Pascrell-Carnahan-Smith-Ros-Lehtinen letter and offer to email them a link to the letter if they have not already seen it.
- ✓ **STEP 3:** Let them know how important senior transportation services are to the older population in your community and why they should sign-on in support of this letter.

→ Please report to n4a any interest you receive from your Representatives or their staff in signing the letter—so that we can follow up as needed. Send feedback via our web form: <http://www.n4a.org/advocacy/feedback/>

→ **Ask other advocates to do the same!**

Urge colleagues, advisory board members, volunteers and clients to make calls to their Representatives, as well.

If you have questions about this **Advocacy Alert**, please contact n4a's Public Policy and Legislative Affairs staff, Amy Gotwals and K.J. Hertz, at 202.872.0888 or agotwals@n4a.org, khertz@n4a.org.

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