July 28th, 2026

The Honorable Claudia Tenney
24th Congressional District of New York
2230 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Tenney,

On behalf of AMAC Action, the advocacy affiliate of the Association of Mature American Citizens (AMAC), with over 2 million members nationwide, I write in strong support of the Essential Caregivers Act which protects the rights, dignity, and well-being of residents in long-term care facilities during times of emergency.

The COVID-19 pandemic revealed the devastating consequences of isolating seniors and individuals with disabilities from their loved ones. Families were barred from providing not only emotional comfort, but also essential caregiving, advocacy, and oversight. As a result, countless residents experienced rapid physical and cognitive decline, unnecessary suffering, and profound loneliness. The Essential Caregivers Act addresses these failures by guaranteeing residents the right to in-person access to at least one designated essential caregiver, even when general visitation is restricted. Loved ones are caregivers, advocates, and lifelines who play a critical role in ensuring quality care, safety, and emotional well-being.

Your legislation also directs the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services to establish clear and uniform safety guidelines. These standards will allow essential caregivers to continue their role responsibly, while safeguarding the health of residents and facility staff during public health emergencies. The Essential Caregivers Act ensures that patient rights are not suspended during emergencies and that compassion, dignity, and humanity remain central to our healthcare system.

Thank you for your commitment to protecting America's seniors.

Sincerely,

Rebecca Weber

Rebecca Weber
CEO, Association of Mature American Citizens (AMAC)
Chairwoman, AMAC Action