Dear Senator **[name]**

I am writing as one of your constituents and as **[title]** of **[company name]**, an operator of senior living communities throughout our state. I am specifically asking for your help to ensure that our residents, among the most vulnerable to COVID-19, will continue to be able to receive the care they need during this most serious health care crisis. The provisions of H.R. 6201, specifically, those that provide employees the opportunity to take paid leave to care for their child if the child’s school or place of care has been closed, or the childcare provider is unavailable due to the COVID-19 pandemic could significantly reduce our available workforce.

Specifically, I ask that you recognize the critical role our front line staff play during this time and exempt senior living employees, those who work in Independent Living, Assisted living, memory care and continuing care retirement communities (CCRCs) from the school closing provisions and instead define a benefit to ensure employees have supportive and safe child care.

As you may know, the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic presents unique challenges to the senior living industry. There are currently 28,900 communities in the United States with more than 811,500 residents calling assisted living home. More than half of all residents are over the age of 85, and another 30% are between the ages of 75-84. COVID-19 has proven that those who are at greatest risk of severe disease and death from the virus are those aged over 60 years and with underlying conditions such as hypertension, diabetes, cardiovascular disease, chronic respiratory disease, and cancer. While the flu generally kills fewer than 1% of those infected, available data on COVID-19 indicates a death rate of 3.4%, rising to 8% for patients ages 70-79, and to 14.8% in patients over 80 years of age.

Now more than ever, our residents desperately need the care and attention of our direct care workers. But the Section 3102 Amendments to the Family and Medical Leave Act and Section 5102 Emergency Paid Sick Leave Act would significantly curtail our workforce. As of Monday, at least 64,000 schools have been closed across 33 states as a result of the pandemic, affecting more than 32 million students – more than half of all public and private students in the country. Many of our workers have children affected by these closures and will have few options other than caring for their dependents.

When H.R. 6201 is considered by the Senate, I urge you to support an exemption to the school closing provisions of Section 3102 and 5102 for senior living employees. We need to ensure that our seniors are cared for during this extraordinary time, and exempting long-term care workers will ensure our workforce is able to remain on the front lines, prevent the spread of the virus and that our most vulnerable will continue to receive the care they need. We also welcome the opportunity to work with Congress to develop some viable options where our senior living employees can continue to work and receive safe childcare.

Thank you for your consideration,

**[name]**

**Company**