



### ***Endorsing Organizations from Senator Gillibrand's Working Group on Aging***

***New York State Office for the Aging (NYSOFA) Acting Director Greg Olsen said, "Older adults are very important to their families and communities in a variety of ways, economically, socially and intellectually. NYSOFA applauds Senator Gillibrand's leadership at the federal level to establish a visionary nationwide roadmap of opportunities and supports for all people as they age. This nationwide plan demands coordination at all levels of government. I encourage other states across the country to endorse Senator Gillibrand's plan and follow New York's example by likewise developing a state Master Plan for Aging with complementary goals, objectives, and commitments as we collectively fulfill our shared responsibility in making the United States a truly age-friendly nation."***

***"Because we are living longer, there is a huge increase in the number of older adults. Older adults will be participating in society in new and different ways – everything from volunteering to providing caregiving to working longer. For some, however, the challenges of longer life will require new supports and innovations. Lifespan of Greater Rochester applauds Senator Kirsten Gillibrand for championing the first ever Master Plan on Aging. This ambitious plan will serve as a guide to ensure that all older people get the resources and support they need to live healthy, fulfilling and independent lives," said Ann Marie Cook, President/CEO, Lifespan of Greater Rochester.***

***"We thank Senator Gillibrand for her leadership in recognizing the importance of providing a sound infrastructure for the country's Older Americans, which are rapidly becoming over 20 percent of our nation's population. By updating the Older Americans Act to today's realities, we are promoting community living with dignity and deterring premature and unnecessary institutionalization saving billions of dollars in care," said Maria Alvarez, Executive Director, NY StateWide Senior Action Council.***

***"We thank Senator Gillibrand for her commitment to addressing the needs and the capabilities of the older population, including older New Yorkers with vision loss. With an estimated 20,000 Long Island older adults with vision loss, a master plan on aging is critical for their wellbeing," said Nancy D. Miller, Executive Director/CEO VISIONS/Services for the Blind and Visually Impaired.***

*"The Senator's Master Plan on Aging centers the needs of our older adult population at the forefront of public policy and has the potential to make our country truly age-friendly. Its recommended investments will be critical in improving health equity as the demand for long-term supportive services increases dramatically along with our aging population. The plan helps highlight the need for person centered care so that every older adult can reach their full potential. We commend Senator Gillibrand for her leadership on aging issues and look forward to working together to ensure older Americans access to the services and supports they need and deserve,"* **said President & CEO of Project Guardianship Kimberly George.**

*"Encore Community Services applauds Senator Gillibrand's Master Plan on Aging. The plan aligns with Encore's belief that all older adults deserve to be well nourished, financially secure and connected to community; and prioritizes long term investments for our state and nation's fastest growing population,"* **said Encore Community Services.**

*"Senator Gillibrand's Master Plan on Aging squarely addresses the needs of millions of aging Americans. As a leading organization that has supported many thousands of people with disabilities for nearly 75 years, we at AHRC NYC see firsthand the need for responsible policies and targeted funding that enable people to age in place. Her Master Plan also acknowledges the current crisis in the direct care workforce. These essential workers cannot be replaced by technology or AI, and are vitally important to the health, safety, well-being, and community inclusion of aging Americans. The Direct Care Workforce must be paid a competitive, living wage, and there must be aggressive efforts to recruit even more workers into this rewarding career. Her plan actively promotes this goal,"* **said AHRC New York City.**

*"The New York State Master Plan on Aging Coalition and our more than 100 member organizations statewide salute Senator Gillibrand for introducing the first National Master Plan on Aging legislation. In doing so Senator Gillibrand is demonstrating a great vision for what our nation needs to do as we continue to be an aging society. Her legislation will continue to spur individual states to continue their work on Master plans which in turn can impact the national plan. We urge Congress to move quickly to pass this legislation either stand alone or as part of the next reauthorization of the Older Americans Act,"* **said Bob Blancato, Coalition Coordinator, New York State Master Plan on Aging Coalition.**

*"Korean Community Services of Metropolitan New York, Inc. (KCS), stands in firm support of Senator Gillibrand's Master Plan on Aging. This critical five-point Master Plan will help support older Americans of all backgrounds, including historically underserved AAPI communities. In particular, KCS has seen the crucial resources and access for the older adults we serve, many of whom seek our assistance from places as far as Long Island and upstate New York. This represents the dearth of culturally competent and linguistically sensitive programs in areas outside of New York City; an area which still requires significant support for its aging community. This funding will help address the myriad of needs in the community such as mental health, public health, economic development, and will help to uplift the many organizations who serve the older adult community throughout the state and the nation. We commend and fully support Senator Gillibrand's Master Plan on Aging and endeavor for the adoption of this plan into official Federal law to create a more caring and*

*equitable society for all," said KCS Korean Community Services of Metropolitan New York, Inc."*

*"So excited by Senator Gillibrand's Master Plan for Aging – which reflects her understanding that "it takes a village" to ensure the well being of older adults. Aging is a process that happens across the whole life course, and a good old age depends on having had a good job, having enough resources, living in connected community in appropriate housing with purpose in life," said Ruth K. Finkelstein, ScD Rose Dobrof Executive Director, Brookdale Center for Healthy Aging & Professor of Urban Public Health.*

*"India Home commends the efforts of Senator Gillibrand's office to support the aging population through the Master Plan on Aging and the inclusion of important priorities such as nutrition in the budget," said Kavita Shah, Program and Budget Director, India Home"*

*"The Association on Aging in New York applauds Senator Gillibrand for her dedication and passion for older New Yorkers and their families. Senator Gillibrand has been an unwavering supporter of programs and services that maintain individuals in homes and communities, while ensuring individuals are able to age with autonomy, dignity and respect. On behalf of the Area Agencies on Aging, we extend our wholehearted support of the work being done by Senator Gillibrand on a national level to ensure New York continues to be a leader in aging services," said the Association on Aging in New York.*

*"We thank Senator Gillibrand for her continued work championing effective anti-hunger policies and budget priorities in Washington DC, especially on behalf of the most vulnerable New Yorkers. With nearly 77% more seniors utilizing food pantry services when compared to 2019, we know far too well that a concerted effort must be made to support aging New Yorkers. We look forward to working alongside the Senator and other leaders across the State to ensure that OAA has a robust food security lens," said Jerome Nataniel, Director of Policy & Government Relations, City Harvest.*

*"The Hospice and Palliative Care Association of New York State (HPCANYS) extends its gratitude to Senator Gillibrand for ensuring the hospice and palliative care industry is included as a critical component for consideration and needed reform in the innovative Master Plan on Aging. As the only statewide association exclusively representing the hospice and palliative care industry in NYS, our association is uniquely positioned to identify barriers to care for those with a life-limiting illness and to offer solutions to increase access to care and promote health equity in care at the end of life. We thank the Senator for this acknowledgment. There are more than 75 million Americans aged 60 years and older. By 2034, the number of adults 65 and older will be greater than the number of children under age 18. However, even as the number of older adults grows, our nation is unprepared to meet the needs of a rapidly aging population, particularly in care for the seriously ill and dying. We applaud Senator Gillibrand for her commitment to address the critical needs of our aging population. HPCANYS is honored to collaborate in the creation of the Master Plan, and stands ready to assist Senator Gillibrand in her efforts to provide support and reforms to the hospice and palliative care industry to ensure the security of this important space on the care continuum," said Jeanne M. Chirico, President/ CEO of Hospice and Palliative Care Association of NYS.*

*"Thank you to Senator Gillibrand for bringing vision to this first federal Master Plan on Aging," said Citymeals on Wheels CEO Beth Shapiro. "The demographic shift underway – caused by rapid growth in the number of over people over 60 – brings both challenges and opportunities. We need thoughtful, comprehensive and coordinated strategies at the city, state and federal level to address the issues arising as older Americans are living longer on limited incomes, with chronic health conditions and limited support. The Senator's master plan provides a robust framework for meeting the needs of older Americans, ensuring that we can all age with dignity and security."*

*"CaringKind, The Heart of Alzheimer's Caregiving is proud to support Senator Kirsten Gillibrand's Master Plan on Aging to ensure that all older Americans have the resources and support to live lives of dignity and purpose, including those with cognitive impairments and their family caregivers who selflessly provide care, often at a great cost, emotionally, physically and financially," said Jed Levine, Director of External Relations, CaringKind, the Heart of Alzheimer's Caregiving.*