

Endorsing Organizations

ADvancing States

Alliance for Aging Research

Alliance for Retired Americans

Alzheimer's Foundation of America

Aging Life Care Association

American Geriatrics Society (AGS)

American Society on Aging

Caring Across Generations

CaringKind

Carter Burden Network

Chinese-American Planning Council

Citymeals on Wheels

Defeat Malnutrition Today

Diverse Elders Coalition

Elder Justice Coalition

Foundation for Social Connection Action Network

Generations United

The Gerontological Society of America (GSA)

Greater New York Hospital Association (GNYHA)

Hartford Institute for Geriatric Nursing

International Association for Indigenous Aging

Justice in Aging

LeadingAge

Lifespan of Greater Rochester

Meals on Wheels America

Medicare Rights Center

National Adult Protective Services Association

National Alliance for Caregiving

National Association for Geriatric Education (NAGE)

National Association of Counties

National Association of Social Workers (NASW)

National Association of State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs

National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care

National Foundation to End Senior Hunger

National Indian Council on Aging (NICOA)

New York State Office of Aging

New York State Master Plan on Aging Coalition

New York StateWide Senior Action Council

Service Program for Older People, Inc (SPOP)

USAging

Quotes

“The Alliance for Aging Research strongly supports the Strategic Plan for Aging Act, which would provide much-needed, state-based resources to develop systems-based solutions in health care, housing, transportation, consumer affairs, employment, and income security for our nation’s older adults. With continued aging population growth, and deep cuts looming for the Medicaid and SNAP programs, more communities across the country will be facing daily demand for critical services. We thank Senator Gillibrand for her leadership and foresight, and we urge unity across the aisle on this fair and common-sense solution for service providers and the families they serve.” – **Scott Frey, Senior VP for Public Policy and Government Relations, Alliance for Aging Research**

"This forward-thinking legislation will help ensure that more older Americans can age in place by connecting them to critical support services, such as reliable transportation,

home delivery of healthy meals, and home in-help with daily tasks," **said Richard Fiesta, Executive Director of the Alliance for Retired Americans, a grassroots advocacy organization with 4.4 million members nationwide.** "The challenges facing seniors are similar, but solutions need to be tailored for each local community. Senator Gillibrand's bill will make sure that states and local communities are able to create and carry out comprehensive plans to better serve the growing number of American seniors."

"The Alzheimer's Foundation of America (AFA) believes that additional support for older Americans, especially for those living with dementia-related illnesses and their caregivers, is vital. Enhancing coordination and delivery of services to meet the growing needs of our older adult population depends on state-specific strategic planning. Delivering new resources which incentivize states to develop these plans is an important investment. We are pleased to support the Strategic Plan for Aging Act and thank Senator Gillibrand for reintroducing it." – **Charles J. Fuschillo, Jr., President & CEO, Alzheimer's Foundation of America**

"The American Society on Aging welcomes the *Strategic Plan for Aging Act*, which will help states build coordinated, equitable systems that work for citizens in their unique contexts—including older adults, people with disabilities, and the caregivers who support them. This bill moves us closer to a future in which all of us can age in the ways we choose. ASA stands ready to help ensure that each state's plan reflects the voices and experiences across communities." – **Leanne J. Clark-Shirley, President & CEO, American Society on Aging**

"For family caregivers, care workers, aging adults and disabled people of all ages, the passage of the Strategic Planning for Aging Act would go far in breaking down silos in states that often lead to delayed care and added bureaucracy. This legislation would give states the resources to create plans to build systems, and infrastructure to better serve aging and disabled Americans, and those who care for them." – **Nicole Jorwic, Chief Program Officer, Caring Across Generations**

"CaringKind strongly supports Senator Gillibrand's initiative to introduce an amendment to the Older Americans Act to include the awarding of grants for plans for aging. We are proud of the work that the New York State Master Plan for Aging Coalition has done and is now

implementing in the state, providing a road map to improve the lives of older New Yorkers, including people living with dementia and their family and professional caregivers.” – **Jed Levine, Director, External Relations, CaringKind**

“As one of New York City’s leading aging-services providers delivering congregate meals and supportive programs for more than 50 years. I strongly commend Senator Gillibrand’s bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965. Empowering the Assistant Secretary of Aging to award grants to aging-service providers will help advance multisector plans that address the essential, life-sustaining needs of older adults.

These grants will strengthen efforts to improve nutrition and food security, expand digital literacy education, promote health and wellness, protect elder rights, and bolster the wide range of multicultural supports urgently needed by New York’s growing older adult population.

It is critical that we increase investment in community-based organizations that deliver daily services promoting healthy aging in place, with dignity, for the millions of older adults who wish to remain in their homes and communities.” – **William J. Dionne, Executive Director, Carter Burden Network**

“In New York City and around the country, older adults have begun to outnumber school aged children,” said Citymeals on Wheels CEO Beth Shapiro. “This means updating our thinking on everything: transportation, workforce development, caregiving, housing, food insecurity, and more. The importance of New York’s Master Plan for Aging in guiding our policymakers in this vast undertaking cannot be overstated and we hope to see all states engage in this kind of process. The Strategic Plan for Aging Act would provide states with critical funds to develop their own roadmaps for the program and policy changes needed in this new landscape, so we can all thrive in our later years.” – **Beth Shapiro, Citymeals on Wheels**

“Defeat Malnutrition Today commends Senator Gillibrand introducing the Strategic Plan on Aging Act. This legislation supports the kind of coordinated, cross-sector planning needed at a time when conditions like malnutrition remain an under-addressed issue among older adults in every state. Including quality nutrition and malnutrition care in MPAs and an eventual federal plan on aging can promote healthy aging and enhance the well-being of

older adults, ensuring they receive the necessary support to age as they desire.” – **Laura Borth, Defeat Malnutrition Today Policy Director**

“Diverse Elders Coalition (DEC) is pleased to endorse the Strategic Plan for Aging Act. As our society ages, it’s imperative that we have coordinated, well resourced, and cross-sector strategies to support older adults across a multitude of different needs. This legislation empowers states to create tailored plans that reflect the diverse needs of their respective communities. The DEC looks forward to partnering with states and localities in developing culturally responsive, robust strategies that ensure everyone has the right to age with dignity and agency. Thank you to Ranking Member Gillibrand for leading this important piece of legislation.” – **Didier Trinh, National Director, Diverse Elders Coalition**

“The bipartisan, 3000-member Elder Justice Coalition proudly lends its support to the Strategic Plan for Aging Act. Senator Gillibrand in authoring this bill demonstrates her commitment to the growing movement of more than half the states implementing or creating Multisector Plans for Aging. These efforts should be encouraged with federal support and should be viewed as a forerunner for a long overdue national plan on aging. We especially appreciate how preventing elder abuse has been a prominent goal in a number of MPAs.” – **Bob Blancato, National Coordinator, Elder Justice Coalition**

“Too many older adults experience isolation that undermines their health and wellbeing. The Strategic Plan for Aging Act rightly elevates social connection as a core element of healthy aging and makes reducing loneliness a shared responsibility across state agencies. We strongly support this legislation as a vital step toward helping older adults age with dignity, purpose, and connection.” – **Andrew MacPherson, Founder & Board Chair, Foundation for Social Connection Action Network**

“Generations United is proud to endorse this opportunity for states and tribes to be strategic about using intergenerational solutions to reduce loneliness, support caregivers and promote healthy aging across the lifespan.” – **Kristen Kiefer, Executive Director, Generations United**

“The Gerontological Society of America (GSA) is dedicated to advancing the study of aging and fostering the use of gerontological research in forming public policy. The Strategic Plan for Aging Act directly supports this mission by creating a structured mechanism for translating research into state-level policy and practice,” said **GSA CEO James Appleby, BSPHarm, MPH, ScD (Hon)**. “GSA appreciates that the act requires states to convene cross-sector stakeholders, including aging and disability stakeholders, to collaborate in shaping communities where everyone can thrive as we age.

"Today, more than ever, it's important to support the *Strategic Plan for Aging Act*. As our aging population expands, resources to address issues that impact successful aging are critical. This act provides the continuation and enhancement of many of the support services that are essential for older adults." – **Tara Cortes, PhD, RN, FAAN; Executive Director, HIGN at NYU Meyers; Professor, NYU Rory Meyers College of Nursing**

“In addition to the nation’s 574 federally recognized tribes and many state recognized tribes, American Indian and Alaska Native peoples are community members of cities and towns across every state. It is imperative that states’ Master Plans on Aging recognize the strengths and needs of its Native peoples. We are pleased that the Strategic Plan for Aging introduced by Senator Gillibrand and colleagues recognizes the voices that must heard by and on behalf of Native elders both on and off tribal lands,” said **Bill Benson, President of the International Association for Indigenous Aging (IA²)**

“We are living longer and our country needs to prepare for an aging society. While older adults participate in society in a variety of 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 Strategic Plan for Aging Act. This act will provide the resources to create plans so that all older people get the support they need to live healthy, fulfilling and independent lives.” – **Ann Marie Cook, President & CEO, Lifespan of Greater Rochester**

"We applaud Senator Gillibrand for her dedication and leadership in supporting older Americans. This rapidly growing population faces significant and costly risks such as social

isolation, malnutrition, and hunger, while inadequate federal funding limits the aging network's capacity to provide lifesaving services. Currently, one in three Meals on Wheels programs has a waitlist, with seniors waiting an average of four months, and in some cases up to two years, for nutritious meals and moments of connection and care. The Strategic Plan on Aging Act would incentivize needed collaboration among states, area agencies on aging, and community-based organizations like Meals on Wheels by providing additional grants and resources to coordinate and implement aging plans focused on seniors' health, well-being and quality of life. This legislation offers a helpful step to ensure that the needs of our older Americans get the priority attention they deserve." – **Ellie Hollander, President & CEO of Meals on Wheels America**

"Millions of family caregivers work tirelessly to support aging parents, relatives, and neighbors—many of whom live with disabilities. Their dedication makes it possible for older adults to remain at home and in their communities with dignity, independence, and a higher quality of life. By strengthening supports and coordination for older adults and aging services, we can significantly reduce the pressure on these family caregivers who often fill critical gaps in our aging infrastructure. The Strategic Plan for Aging Act is a smart, forward-looking investment that encourages states to better coordinate essential services, thereby strengthening both family caregivers and the loved ones who rely on them." – **Jason Resendez, President & CEO, National Alliance for Caregiving**

"The National Adult Protective Services Association supports continued efforts to build state-based multisector plans for aging with a commitment to enhancing elder justice. A statewide, multidisciplinary effort is essential to preventing and appropriately responding to surging reports of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation in all states. We look forward to seeing active involvement of Adult Protective Services agencies in development and implementation of multisector plans for aging." – **Kendra Kuehn, National Policy Advisor, National Adult Protective Services Association**

"The National Foundation to End Senior Hunger applauds Senator Gillibrand for her continued commitment to America's older adults. We fully support the reintroduction of the Strategic Plan for Aging Act and thank the Senator for her leadership on behalf of all seniors." – **Enid A. Borden, CEO, National Foundation to End Senior Hunger**

“The New York State MPA Coalition strongly endorses Senator Gillibrand’s Strategic Plan for Aging Act. We see this legislation as validation for the more than half of U.S. states that have either produced or are working on Multisector Plans for Aging. New York, as one of the few states with a released multisector plan, would benefit from this bill as it provides vitally-important grants for implementation. Senator Gillibrand is to be commended for her vision for healthy aging in the U.S.” – **Nora Suric, Founder and Co-Convener, NYS MPA Coalition & Bob Blancato, Co-Convener, NYS MPA Coalition**

“The updating and upgrading of the Older Americans Act is long overdue. In the wake of the exponential growth of the 65+ population, it only makes sense that a program which was initiated in 1965 be adapted to the needs of today's Older Americans. We commend Senator Gillibrand for her vision and leadership in pulling together experts in the different disciplines and communities to address the evolution of what has become today's golden generation.” – **Maria Alvarez, Executive Director, New York StateWide Senior Action Council**

“NYSOFA congratulates Senator Gillibrand for recognizing the value that older adults and those who care for them bring to their families and to their communities economically, socially and intellectually. Senator Gillibrand, through this thoughtful and forward-looking legislation, understands that older adults and their families touch a variety of systems, and this legislation hits all the issues that we are working to address in New York State through our own Master Plan for Aging under Governor Hochul’s vision and leadership. Nationwide, 83% of all household wealth is generated by those 50 and older. This group also contributes 40% (\$1.8 trillion) in federal, state and local taxes, and their spending supports almost 89 million jobs. They are also the number one age group for volunteering, charitable giving, philanthropy and entrepreneurship. Every state needs to recognize and value these contributions and should have a process to develop and implement their own plans to improve the health and well-being of older adults and individuals with disabilities.” – **Greg Olsen, Director of New York State Office for the Aging Director**