LCAO Call in Scripts for Coronavirus Campaign, June 15-19 2020

Script for Aging Advocates

- Hi, my name is [NAME] and I work in the aging and health field in [CITY or TOWN] and [STATE].

- I am calling to ask the Senator to support federally funded assistance for older Americans and family caregivers who are facing extremely difficult challenges during the COVID-19 pandemic.

- We rely on government to help keep our loved ones safe and healthy and older Americans are at a higher risk during COVID. In fact, 8 out of 10 deaths from COVID in the U.S. have been in adults 65 years old and older. Older adults of color and their families are experiencing disproportionate illness and death from COVID19. For example, nursing homes housing a substantial number of Black and Latino residents have been twice as likely to get hit by the coronavirus as homes where the population was mainly White. State and local governments and their budgets are being overwhelmed by the consequences of the pandemic for healthcare, social care, and the economy.

- Congress Needs to Take Action to [CHOOSE ONE OR TWO]:
  - Provide budgetary relief to states so that they can avoid program cuts and state workforce reductions
  - Provide resources for quality care and support the rights of residents of nursing homes and assisted living;
  - Help older adults to live safely in their homes by ensuring every community has the resources to provide in-home care and nutrition for older people who need these services.
  - Promote safety and provide equipment for the workforce serving older adults, and
  - Safeguard the income and retirement security of older adults and generations to come.

- Please commit to appropriations designated for [CHOOSE ONE OR TWO]:
• Direct support for state budgets to prevent program cuts and layoffs of state employees.
• Supplies of personal protective equipment for all who work and volunteer with older adults.
• Accurate and available testing for everyone, along with support for contact tracing.
• Increased support for vital programs that serve older Americans such as the Older Americans Act, the Social Services block grant, and full appropriations for the Elder Justice Act.

• These priorities are important to me because [SHARE YOUR PERSONAL STORY HERE].
• Thank you for taking my call and please urge the Senator to support older Americans in the next COVID-19 package!