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Washington, DC – n4a CEO Sandy Markwood released the following statement today regarding the Commission on Long-Term Care’s final report

The national Commission on Long-Term Care (Commission) was established under Section 643 of the American Taxpayer Relief Act of 2012, which was signed into law on January 2, 2013. In addition to establishing the Commission, this law included limited tax reform, repealed the Community Living Assistance Services and Supports (CLASS) Act, and delayed federal sequestration until March 1, 2013.

“While n4a appreciates and supports many of the Commission’s recommendations, which would ultimately benefit older adults and families, we are concerned that the Commission could not come to agreement on the largest challenge facing long-term services and supports (LTSS): financing. Addressing LTSS financing was one of the main charges given by Congress to the Commission, which was established in the wake of the CLASS Act repeal. While n4a knew there would be challenges to finding policy consensus on a major issue so soon after the demise of CLASS, we remain concerned that more progress was not made.

“It is no secret that the rapidly growing aging population— particularly those over 85— compounding with rising costs of health care and social services that are essential components of LTSS will have a direct effect on our country’s ability to serve the most vulnerable population. The lack of appropriate LTSS financing cannot continue to be ignored or postponed.

“n4a was pleased to see recommendations that we and other advocates have long espoused or worked for, such as expanding the “No Wrong Door” approach to provide enhanced options counseling for individuals to navigate LTSS; creating livable communities that build upon models that can improve access to services and health care-LTSS coordination; and maintaining and strengthening a person and family-centered LTSS system with both the person with cognitive or functional limitations and the family caregiver as a focus for services and supports.
“We certainly appreciate the Commission’s hard work and thoughtful recommendations; however, we urge Congress to think bigger and harder about solving the financing issues that surround LTSS, and we look forward to working with our Congressional leaders to identify and implement positive public policy remedies.”

A summary of the Commission’s Recommendations is available here.

The Commission’s full report is available here.

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**The National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a)** is the umbrella organization for the 618 Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) and a voice in the nation’s capital for the 246 Title VI Native American aging programs in the U.S. The fundamental mission of the AAAs and Title VI Native American aging programs is to provide services that make it possible for older individuals to remain in their homes, thereby preserving their independence and dignity. These agencies coordinate and support a wide range of home and community-based services, including information and referral, home-delivered and congregate meals, transportation, employment services, senior centers, adult day care and a long-term care ombudsman program. For more information, visit [www.n4a.org](http://www.n4a.org).