March 22, 2019

Richard Prudom, Secretary
Florida Department of Elder Affairs
4040 Esplanade Way
Tallahassee, Florida 32399

Dear Secretary Prudom:

On behalf of the Florida Department of Health (FDOH), I would like to extend our department’s support for the State of Florida’s Age Friendly application to the National AARP Network of Age Friendly states.

In October 2017, FDOH participated in the Trust for America’s Health “Florida Convening: Framework for an Age-Friendly Public Health System” in Tampa, Florida. The meeting included leaders from the Florida Department of Elder Affairs, the Director of AARP, and the CEO of the Senior Resource Alliance. The group achieved the goal of outlining a policy framework for an Age-Friendly Public Health System that was linked to and informed by the work of many other organizations with long and dedicated histories of providing services to older adults.

There is a natural alignment with promoting Florida as an age-friendly state. The 67 FDOH county health departments function as primary community partners serving all ages and consistently collaborate with the Florida Department of Elder Affairs’ 11 Aging and Disability Resource Centers for further elder services.

The current State Health Improvement Plan sets a goal to strengthen the capacity of state and local agencies and other organizations to work collaboratively with communities and each other to support the specific needs of Florida’s most vulnerable populations. Promoting livable communities for all ages is a good strategy to work toward this goal.

Sincerely,

[Signature]

Jennifer Johnson, MPH
Interim Assistant Deputy Secretary for Health
March 1, 2019

Mr. Richard Prudom  
Secretary  
Florida Department of Elder Affairs  
4040 Esplanade Way  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Secretary Prudom:

We are writing to enthusiastically support the designation of Florida as an Age-friendly State. Sarasota County became Florida’s first community to join the AARP Global Network of Age-Friendly Cities and Communities in 2015. Since that time, 23 other Florida communities have joined more than 300 American cities and 800 communities worldwide in the “age-friendly movement” which promotes active, healthy living for people of all life stages and abilities. The designation builds upon this substantial momentum by engaging government, business, organizations and residents to make Florida an even better place to live, work, play and grow old.

Florida represents the nation’s largest proportion of older adults and our communities are continuing to age. The state is home to six generations of Americans and four counties in which more than one-third of persons are aged 65 or older. The age-friendly work optimizes the social, civic and intellectual capital of citizens of all ages by recognizing the diversity of our needs and preferences across all aspects of community life. Across Florida, our individual and collective lives are enhanced when we have opportunities to participate and contribute despite circumstances commonly encountered with advanced age such as health issues and caregiving responsibilities.

Since our inception, Age-Friendly Sarasota has engaged in multiple local and statewide partnerships that enhance the health and wellbeing of aging Floridians. Our partnership with the Florida Department of Health currently focuses on creating the nation’s first age-friendly public health system in Florida. We were proud to inspire this effort that will adopt a healthy aging lens across the 65 Departments of Health across Florida. Our work to date has been overwhelmingly received by public health practitioners who are now synergizing efforts with the aging network to better meet local needs at the intersection of health and aging. We are eager to continue this work and look forward to new opportunities that will transpire upon the state designation.

The state designation will propel our efforts in innumerable ways. Together, we look forward to advancing Age-Friendly Florida in all the ways we can.

Sincerely,

Kathy Black, Ph.D.  
Professor of Aging Studies,  
University of South Florida, Sarasota-Manatee

Charles Henry, REHS, MPA  
Health Officer,  
Florida Department of Health, Sarasota
February 22, 2019

The Honorable Richard Prudom  
Florida Department of Elder Affairs  
4040 Esplanade Way  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Secretary Prudom:

On behalf of the Florida Association of Senior Centers (FASC), we would like to extend our support for the State of Florida’s Age Friendly application to the National AARP Network of Age Friendly states. FASC has been a steadfast partner with the Florida Department of Elder Affairs and AARP in assisting with livable community efforts. Several of our centers have participated in the Age Friendly community survey processes and are fully vested in creating livable communities.

FASC is a dynamic network of professionals who serve at least 400,000 Floridians who visit senior centers every year. Our centers serve as the gateway to the nation’s aging network, connecting older adults to vital community services that can help them stay healthy and independent. Recognized by the Older Americans Act (OAA) as a community focal point, senior centers have become one of the most widely used services among America’s older adults. Today, nearly 11,000 senior centers serve 1 million older adults every day.

Supporting the DOEA and AARP in the Age Friendly initiative is a win-win situation for our community and FASC is pleased to offer our support.

Sincerely,

Sally Marvin, President  
Florida Association of Senior Centers  
330 Fifth St. N.  
St. Petersburg, FL 33701  
Sally.marvin@stpete.org
February 28, 2019

Mr. Richard Prudom
Secretary
Florida Department of Elder Affairs
4040 Esplanade Way
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Secretary Prudom:

Please accept this letter of support from the Florida Civic Advance Intergenerational Workgroup for the Department of Elder Affairs’ efforts to be designated an Age-Friendly State. Florida Civic Advance is a network of 60 organizations that are dedicated to helping Florida communities strengthen their civic engagement and overall community success. We believe that the livable communities created through the Age-Friendly Initiative will improve civic involvement of our diverse residents and communities.

It is imperative for our state’s civic health that we encourage our communities to implement Age-Friendly domains of livability, including the Civic Participation Domain, to keep our older residents active in the process of improving our communities.

We can do more to improve the overall civic health of our state – especially as we continue to grow so rapidly. In recent years, Florida overtook New York as the third most populous state in the nation, and Florida continues to be a popular place for retirees. With more than 5.5 million residents age 60 or older, Florida has the highest population percentage of elders in the United States. Additionally, more than 850 people move to our state every day – over half of whom are seniors.
In addition to promoting volunteer and civic service and engagement, the Civic Participation Domain promotes other forms of engagement, like voting. In Florida, more than 87 percent of residents over the age of 60 are registered to vote. While this is an impressive number, we want to continue to promote civic participation through voting and believe that the efforts in Age-Friendly communities will help to accomplish this. The FCA Voter Education and Civic Service Workgroup is focused on improving voter participation and civic service of all Floridians.

On behalf of the Florida Civic Advance, we agree to support efforts for Florida to become an Age-Friendly State and will work to identify best practices for promoting civic engagement. We commit to collaborating with other organizations in our state in supporting this designation, which will make Florida a state of civic leadership and innovation. If we can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact us.

Sincerely,

Co-Chairpersons, Florida Civic Advance – Inter-Generational Workgroup

Kathy Black, Ph.D.  
Professor of Aging Studies,  
University of South Florida,  
Sarasota-Manatee

Dawn Carr, Ph.D.  
Assistant Professor  
Department of Sociology  
Pepper Institute on Aging and Public Policy  
Florida State University

Jack Levine  
Founder  
4Generations Institute  
Tallahassee FL

Cc: Jeff Johnson, Chair Florida Civic Advance Coordinating Council  
Robert Jones, Secretariat, Florida Civic Advance
March 5, 2019

Mr. Richard Prudom  
Secretary  
Florida Department of Elder Affairs  
4040 Esplanade Way  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Secretary Prudom:

Please accept this letter of support from the Florida Department of Transportation’s Safe Mobility for Life Program and Coalition for the Department of Elder Affairs’ efforts to be designated an Age-Friendly State. Our statewide comprehensive coalition has 28 member organizations, including Department of Elder Affairs, who are actively working together to improve the safety, access, and mobility of Florida’s aging road users.

Florida has the largest number of aging road users in the nation and approximately 20 percent of the state’s population in 2017 was age 65 and older. As you are aware, this population group is projected to grow to 25 percent of the state’s population by 2030. It is the goal of our coalition to improve the safe mobility and connection to the community for Florida’s aging population.

We believe that lifelong communities created through the Age-Friendly Initiative will help us achieve our goals. It will also provide opportunities for people of all ages to remain safe and mobile for life, even beyond driving.

We agree to support the efforts for Florida to become an Age-Friendly State and will continue to promote and educate on the benefits of lifelong communities and support the transportation and mobility needs that help residents of all ages. We commit to collaborating with other organizations in our state in supporting this designation. If I can be of further assistance, please do not hesitate to contact me at (850) 410-5414.

Sincerely,

Gail M. Holley  
Safe Mobility for Life Program Manager
March 18, 2019

Mr. Richard Prudom  
Secretary  
Florida Department of Elder Affairs  
4040 Esplanade Way  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Secretary Prudom:

The Patterson Foundation is pleased to offer this letter of support for the Department of Elder Affairs’ (DOEA) application for the State of Florida to be officially recognized as an Age-Friendly State. Florida is home to the most older adults in the country and Sarasota County has long held the distinction of being a leader in the state and nation with the proportion of older adults choosing our community as home. As our population continues to age, it is imperative that we work together toward creating age-friendly communities across Florida.

With Sarasota County being the first Florida community to join the World Health Organization’s Age-Friendly network in 2015, The Patterson Foundation has supported the Sarasota County Age-Friendly initiative from inception. The Patterson Foundation has served as a philanthropic leader and connector not only in Sarasota County, but across Florida. In 2016, The Patterson Foundation organized and hosted the first Age-Friendly Florida Annual Sharing Symposium. This Symposium facilitated the launch of statewide efforts from AARP Florida and the Department of Elder Affairs that have resulted in four conferences, monthly webinars, and monthly e-newsletter. The Patterson Foundation also led efforts to create the nation’s first Age-Friendly Festival in 2017.

Florida can once again demonstrate its commitment to vibrancy by becoming an Age-Friendly State. Together we will promote active, engaged, and healthy living for people of all ages.

Sincerely,

Debra M. Jacobs  
President/CEO  
The Patterson Foundation
March 12, 2019

Mr. Richard Prudom  
Secretary  
Florida Department of Elder Affairs  
4040 Esplanade Way  
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Secretary Prudom:

Volunteer Florida is pleased to offer this letter of support for the Department of Elder Affairs’ (DOEA) application for the State of Florida to be officially recognized as an AARP Age-Friendly State. We are proud of our partnership with DOEA, as we work to promote volunteerism to meet the needs of our state—a key component in developing Livable Communities through the Age-Friendly Initiative.

Volunteer Florida is the state’s lead agency for volunteerism and national service. We administer millions of dollars in federal, state, and local funding for national service programs like AmeriCorps, and other effective volunteer programs across the state. We recognize and foster the transformative power of service both in communities and in the lives of individuals.

Florida has a long history of volunteerism and community service, which consistently includes senior citizens. In 2017, more than 1.2 million older Floridians contributed nearly 130 million volunteer hours. In that same year, seniors who volunteered in Florida spent an estimated 112 hours of their time in service to others, far above the national average.

We agree to support DOEA’s efforts to establish Florida as an Age-Friendly State as it pertains to our mission, and we are willing to help identify additional strategies and best practices for promoting volunteerism and civic engagement.
in Florida. The Civic Participation Domain of a Livable Community clearly aligns with Volunteer Florida's vision that "Floridians are engaged, communities are transformed, and Florida is a better place to live."

If I can provide additional information, please contact me at (850) 414-7400.

Sincerely,

Clay Ingram  
Chief Executive Officer
March 13, 2019

Mr. Richard Prudom
Secretary
Florida Department of Elder Affairs
4040 Esplanade Way
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Secretary Prudom:

On behalf of the Florida Chapter of the American Planning Association (APA Florida), we would like to extend our support for the State of Florida’s application to the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities, the U.S. domestic initiative under the World Health Organization’s Global Network for Age-Friendly Cities and Communities. This application will distinguish Florida as the first state in the Sunbelt to be recognized as age friendly.

APA Florida’s efforts to champion planning methods that positively enhance the public health and wellbeing of communities and environments is aligned with the Eight Domains of Livability that guide the AARP Age-Friendly initiative.

As the nation’s State with the greatest percentage of older Americans, we recognize the need to embrace newer planning theories and technologies that will enable Floridians, of any age and ability, to live healthier, longer and safer in their community.

As a leader and convener of statewide planners, we support the efforts for Florida to become an Age-Friendly State. We strongly believe that the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities aligns with the goal of APA Florida to make communities more livable for people of all ages.

Supporting the initiative is not only beneficial for encouraging planning practices that will contribute to livable communities, but is also key to better prepare communities for both eight year olds and 80 year olds.

Sincerely,

Laura Everitt, Esq., AICP, LEED GA
APA Florida President
February 20, 2019

Mr. Richard Prudom
Secretary
Florida Department of Elder Affairs
4040 Esplanade Way
Tallahassee, FL 32399

Dear Secretary Prudom:

The Miami-Dade Age-Friendly Initiative is pleased to offer this letter of support for the Department of Elder Affairs’ (DOEA) application for the State of Florida to be officially recognized as an Age-Friendly State. Florida is home to the largest population of older adults in the country and Miami-Dade is home to the largest population of older adults in the state. As our population continues to age, it is imperative that we work together toward creating age-friendly communities across Florida.

The Miami-Dade Age-Friendly Initiative is a collaborative effort focused on sustainable changes and efforts in order to create a community where older adults of all ages can stay active, engaged, and healthy with dignity and enjoyment. The Initiative is led by eight agencies including AARP Florida, the Alliance for Aging, Florida Department of Health in Miami-Dade, Health Foundation of South Florida, Miami-Dade County, Miami-Dade Transportation Planning Organization, United Way of Miami-Dade, and Urban Health Partnerships.

We believe that the livable communities created through the Age-Friendly Initiative will help improve the social and physical environment toward healthy aging. We are proud of our strong partnership with DOEA. DOEA is a partner at the table for the Miami-Dade Age-Friendly Initiative, in the Florida Age-Friendly Healthy Systems Initiative, and its Dementia Care and Cure Initiative. We would like to continue to work collaboratively with DOEA to identify priorities and best practices for continued engagement in all sectors toward addressing the social determinants of health that impact health and wellbeing for our older adults.

As lead agencies representing health, civic engagement, transportation, health services, government and non-profit sectors, we agree to support the efforts for Florida to become an Age-Friendly State. We commit to collaborating with other organizations in our state in supporting this designation, which will make Florida a state of leadership and innovation for the aging population.

Sincerely,

[Signature]