Dear [NAME],

June 15th is World Elder Abuse Awareness Day. As you may know, millions of older adults in the United States are abused, neglected, or exploited every year. While elder abuse can take many forms, I would like to bring your attention to the experiences of many of our nursing home residents.

Reports over the last few years indicate that nursing home residents are too often harmed by poor care as a result of inadequate staffing, inappropriate use of antipsychotic drugs, and weak enforcement of the minimum safety standards. Sadly, recent efforts by the Trump Administration to rollback resident protections only further threaten the health and safety of residents across the country. For instance, CMS’s recent 18-month moratorium on the enforcement of several standards of care means that even nursing home violations that are cited as having caused the resident harm or placing the resident in immediate jeopardy will not be properly remedied.

The Nursing Home Reform Law promises every resident the services necessary to attain or maintain his or her “highest practicable physical, mental, and psychosocial well-being.” While any law can be improved upon, this federal law and its implementing regulations provide residents the rights and protections needed to have quality care and a good quality of life. We must not forget the promises we made to our most vulnerable loved ones.

I respectfully encourage you to take a moment to reflect on what World Elder Abuse Awareness Day stands for and what it aims to achieve. I hope that you will join me in opposing any current or future action to weaken the rights and protections of nursing home residents.

Sincerely,

[NAME]