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February 25, 2009

The Honorable Richard Lugar
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20505

Dear Senator Lugar:

On behalf of the Jewish Federation of Greater Indianapolis and the Indianapolis NORC: Elder-Friendly Communities, we want to thank you and your staff for supporting our NORC Supportive Service Program demonstration request over the past several years.

Your support for this project provided the spark for what has become an extraordinarily wide-ranging and well-respected aging-in-place demonstration project. We have forged relationships with State agencies who are looking to us to play a consultative and training role replicating the NORC model to underserved communities in throughout the State.

The timing of our request coincides with the aging of the Baby Boomers, who will rely in growing numbers on community-based providers, such as ours, to deliver better, more efficient, and effective services to meet their needs. Our country's system of long-term care will depend on such improvements if we, as a nation, are to properly maintain our quality of care for our senior citizens, in the wake of the Baby Boom.

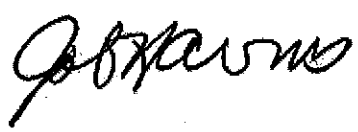
As such, we seek your continued support for our NORC Supportive Service Program demonstration request in FY2010. Accompanying this letter is our formal proposal for FY2010, which requests a grant of $400 thousand.

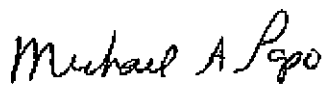
Securing a NORC demonstration project grant in FY2010 would enable us to further develop best practices, guidelines, models, tools, and important evaluative research and data to improve our ability to deliver services to the aged and enrich the lives of our elderly clients. Additionally, with a demonstration project, we would broadly disseminate the body of knowledge, research, and methodologies that is derived from this experience within the Aging Network at home. Likewise, we would continue to contribute to the growing body of work to come out of the national initiative, intended to provide national public policy makers with innovative solutions to meet the extraordinary demands the baby boomers are expected to place on the nation's existing long term care systems.

The provision of long-term care for the aging has historically been a public-private partnership between government and health and human services providers. Now, at the threshold of the baby-boom tidal wave, there is a great need for Congress to bolster and spur innovation of home and community-based services and programming to ensure our seniors who are aging in place are able to maintain their independence and quality of life. In the spirit of partnership, we look forward to working with you and your staff again this year in furtherance of our innovative NORC supportive services demonstration project in FY2010.

Thank you, Senator Lugar, for your consideration of this request and your continued leadership on this issue. Please let us know whether there are any additional forms that require our completion.

Respectfully,





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