

May 25, 2021

The Honorable Alex Padilla

FAX: 202- 224-2200

The Honorable John Garamendi

FAX 202-225-5914

**The American Jobs Plan: key elements to support**

Dear Senator Alex Padilla and Congressman John Garamendi:

We, as advocates and members of the Yolo Healthy Aging Alliance, are in support of the following items to remain in the American Jobs Plan that address housing, broadband infrastructure and affordable access to community care for our aging population. The YHAA is a non-profit organization whose mission is to assist in enhancement and well being of older adults in Yolo County. We support the following when the AJP moves through the Senate.

- 400 billion to expand access to quality, affordable home or community –based care for aging relatives and people with disabilities and to expand access to Long Term Care services under Medicaid and increased wages and benefits for care giving jobs. We support the expansion of access to home and community-based services (HCBS) and the extension of Money Follows the Person program that support innovations in delivery of long –term care.
- 100 billion to build broadband infrastructure in un-served and underserved area so 100% high speed broadband coverage can be obtained. We support the bills priority for broadband networks owned, operated by or affiliated with local governments, non-profits, and co-operatives- those with less pressure to make profits and with a commitment to serve entire communities. We support the goal of reducing the cost of broadband internet service so that more of our community can afford internet service in rural and urban areas. Having access to broadband has been necessary during the pandemic for community and health care needs for our aging population. This need will carry forward in the future as health care now can reach with the internet more people who live in our rural areas.
- 213 billion to produce, preserve, and retrofit more than a million affordable, accessible, energy efficient housing units by using targeted tax credits, formula funding, grants and project-based rental assistance that include rural and tribal areas. We support the building and rehabilitation of more than 500,000 homes for low and middle income homebuyers and the investment in improving the infrastructure of the public housing system.

In addition to the housing assistance noted above, we find that our homeless and nearly homeless seniors have been on a wait list for housing vouchers for many years without obtaining vouchers that would help them fund permanent housing. The last statistics from Jan 2019, it was determined

that from 2017-2019 homelessness was up 42.7% and 20% of those are 55 years and older. Please consider adding more vouchers to assist our seniors.

Sincerely,