



U.S. SENATE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

AGING ACTION REPORT

FROM RANKING MEMBER TIM SCOTT

DEAR FRIEND,

I am honored to have been chosen by my Republican colleagues to lead the Senate Special Committee on Aging. Our key priority will be ensuring that our seniors are vaccinated and protected from the coronavirus pandemic while also finding creative ways to make life better during one's golden years, growing career opportunities for older Americans, and solidifying retirement security. As the Ranking Member of the Committee on Aging, look forward to serving the seniors of South Carolina and the United States.

RANKING MEMBER TIM SCOTT



AGING HEARING DEBRIEF: COVID-19 ONE YEAR LATER

On Thursday, March 18, Ranking Member Tim Scott and members of the U.S. Senate Special Committee on Aging heard from a panel of witnesses about the ongoing health care needs of older Americans during the COVID-19 pandemic. In his opening statement, Ranking Member Scott discussed his priorities for the Committee, which include financial security, health care, and ensuring that the Committee fights for all Americans—communities that are too often forgotten or left behind.

The Committee was pleased to have South Carolina's Chief Operating Officer of Roper St. Francis Healthcare, Anthony Jackson, as a witness. He provided targeted insight on the health care issues facing America's aging communities during COVID-19, including a drive-through vaccination program and the expansion of telehealth services to meet seniors where they are.

LETTER SENT TO THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

This week Ranking Member Scott joined a bipartisan group of lawmakers in asking the Biden Administration to collect and make public data on COVID-19 vaccination rates in the nation's nursing homes at the facility level. The letter, sent to Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra, comes as nursing home residents and workers have faced an outsized toll during the pandemic. This data will help individuals and families consider risks when determining the most appropriate facility for care.



INTRODUCING THE PROTECTING SENIORS THROUGH IMMUNIZATIONS ACT

"As Ranking Member of the Senate Aging Committee, I know the importance of getting life-saving vaccines into the arms of our nation's seniors. Aging Americans have given their all to make our nation strong and we must do everything we can to ensure they are taken care of. I look forward to working with my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to pass the Protecting Seniors Through Immunizations Act and to make the recommended vaccines available to Medicare beneficiaries at no additional cost," said Ranking Member Tim Scott.

KEEPING THE PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE PROGRAM ACCOUNTABLE

Ranking Member Scott joined Senate Colleagues in sending a letter to the U.S. Department of Labor urging the administration to rescind its recent guidance on the pandemic unemployment assistance program. The program risks exacerbating fraud, inflating costs, and imposing onerous administrative burdens on state employment agencies. Seniors have experienced the biggest burden from COVID-19 and criminals are utilizing their information to commit unemployment benefits fraud. To stop this, the U.S. Department of Labor developed a tool to help seniors learn more about how to protect themselves.



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THE SWEET TEA

All South Carolinians age 16 and older are eligible to receive the COVID-19 vaccine as of March 31, 2021. South Carolina DHEC provides an interactive map of vaccine provider locations for easy access on their website. You can also call **1-866-365-8110** for more help. A 72 year-old grandmother from West Columbia said, "I am thankful my husband and I were able to get the vaccine. Now, I am even more grateful that the rest of family is eligible and will be protected."

And that's the Sweet Tea on vaccine distribution!



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