LeadingAge Need to Know: COVID-19 – June 4, 2020

## **Special Message from Katie Smith Sloan**

This week, LeadingAge's president and CEO offers a special message to members. In recent months, LeadingAge has been very vocal in expressing our deep concerns about the government's response to supporting older adults and our members during the COVID-19 pandemic. But recent events make it crystal clear that we are facing another, equally deadly, pandemic. As the American Psychological Association declared recently, "We are living in a racism pandemic"...

COVID-19, the coronavirus that we are all fighting, robs people of their health, instills fear, and in many cases, ends lives. Racism, bigotry, and hatred do the same—robbing lives while instilling fear and anger. What is taking place across this country right now shines a spotlight on people who must live their lives being afraid, angry, and hurt. It shines an intense light on what many of you face daily.

Read the <u>entire message</u> on how our challenging times have become even more challenging.

## **Kendal Speaks Out for Social Justice**

LeadingAge member Kendal is responding to the events of this week with a call for social justice and a moment of silence today at 9 a.m. PT, 11 a.m CT and Noon ET. LeadingAge will join them, and we invite you to do the same. As they write in <a href="their statement">their statement</a>: "wherever we are, we will stand together in solidarity and in silence for 5 minutes of silence, united in acknowledging what wrongs have been committed and recognizing where we stand on the long path forward to peace and justice."

## The Latest Coronavirus News and Resources

We are continuing our critical work for you and older adults across the country battling the pandemic. Join us this afternoon at 3:30 p.m. ET. for our <u>daily online update</u>, and visit the <u>main coronavirus</u> <u>page anytime</u>.

There are many ways to get help during this crisis. Contact LeadingAge's national team directly or email us at <a href="mailto:covid@leadingage.org">covid@leadingage.org</a>. If you have questions about local and state issues, <a href="mailto:contact your state association">contact your state association</a>. Join the MyLeadingAge Member Community <a href="mailto:covID-19">COVID-19</a> group to ask questions, access resources, and share best practices for dealing with the coronavirus.