**MOTHER’S DAY OP-ED OUTLINE**

For some families, this will be one of the most emotional and meaningful Mother’s Days of their lives as it might be the first chance to see their mothers in person for more than a year. Faced with a raging pandemic that hit older adults hardest, families have been staying apart in order to keep their moms (and dads) safe. Thanks to a nationwide effort that prioritized COVID-19 vaccinations for older Americans, reunions have already begun for many families.

Even as families depended on technology to stay in touch, many moms also depended on their daily personal relationships with care workers that brought joy and companionship, and helped stave off the depression that separation can bring. Strong bonds were forged. Many care workers have become surrogate family members to many of our moms.

[ MEMBERS ARE ENCOURAGED TO INCLUDE EXAMPLES HERE OF OUTSTANDING WORK BY THEIR STAFFS TO SERVE PATIENTS/CLIENTS DURING THE PANDEMIC ]

This Mother’s Day is more than an opportunity to honor our own mothers. It’s a celebration of the dedicated care workers who gave so much of themselves to keep our mothers healthy, comfortable and personally connected when COVID kept us apart. Many of these care workers are mothers themselves who risked their lives and those of their own families to care for others.

[ IF YOUR COMMUNITY/RESIDENTS/CLIENTS ARE HOLDING MOTHER’S DAY OBSERVANCES, WE ENCOURAGE A “HERE AT …” SENTENCE OR TWO HERE ]

I hope you’ll join me this Mother’s Day in celebrating moms everywhere, along with the heroic care workers to whom we will be forever indebted.

###