



NYS Senator Rachel May, Chair, Aging Committee:

“As Chair of the Aging Committee, I am committed to standing up for all older New Yorkers. It is important that we recognize, quantify, and address the specific challenges older LGBTQ+ people are facing so that we can better advocate on their behalf. I thank AARP and SAGE for commissioning this report and look forward to working on legislation to take action on these issues.”

NYS Senator Brad Hoylman:

“We need to ensure older LGBTQ+ New Yorkers are connected to the resources and care they need to age with dignity. For many LGBTQ+ seniors, coming out decades ago may have meant losing their family, being evicted from their homes or fewer job opportunities. As a result, LGBTQ+ elders tend to be more isolated, have smaller support networks, and less financial stability than other seniors. I applaud SAGE and AARP for their comprehensive strategy to support older LGBTQ+ New Yorkers and will help them implement it however I can, including pushing for the passage of my legislation to establish an LGBTQ+ Long-Term Care Facility Residents’ Bill of Rights (S.85), to designate LGBTQ+ seniors and seniors living with HIV as a population of greatest social need (S.78), and to expand New York’s LGBTQ+ data collection practices (S.774).”

NYS Assembly Member Richard Gottfried, Chair, Health Committee:

“The ‘Disrupting Disparities’ report by SAGE and AARP offers invaluable insight into the challenges faced by LGBTQ New Yorkers over 50, a growing part of New York’s population. It offers important programmatic and policy prescriptions to legislators and policy makers to help address disparities it identifies, including adopting and implementing a comprehensive strategy for older LGBTQ New Yorkers. I congratulate SAGE and AARP on this important collaborative effort, which I hope will encourage further research and advocacy.”

NYS Assembly Member Ron Kim, Chair, Aging Committee:

“As the new Chair of the Committee on Aging, I look forward to uniting around the idea that every New Yorker should have access to safe, affordable housing, well-paying jobs with benefits, and social services regardless of how they identify. Every life has value, every life is worthy of dignity. I look forward to improving the lives of our older LGBT community alongside of you.”

NYS Assembly Member Harry Bronson, Former Chair, Aging Committee:

“Our LGBTQ seniors are a very resilient group. They are the shoulders we have stood on as we passed the Sexual Orientation Non-Discrimination Act, (SONDA), they are the one who witnessed our weddings when Marriage Equality was passed in the State and became the law of the land for our nation, and today those seniors stand with me as we pave new policies so they may age as LGBTQ New Yorkers. As the former Chair of the Assembly Aging Committee, I was proud to pass legislation that would provide culturally inclusive LGBTQ training for service providers. I will continue to fight for inclusion of LGBTQ seniors so they are part of a vibrant and vital New York.”