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**The Bipartisan Policy Center's
Health and Housing Task Force Releases Report,
"Healthy Aging Begins at Home"**

*Report Raises Awareness of an Urgent National Need for
New and Better Housing for America Suitable for People of All Ages*

Smart Living 360 CEO Ryan Frederick Serves on Task Force's Advisory Council

Baltimore, Md. (May 26, 2016) – The Bipartisan Policy Center's Senior Health and Housing Task Force has released its report entitled, "Healthy Aging Begins At Home." The report underscores the synergies between health care and housing in fostering improved health outcomes, cost savings, and enhanced quality of life for America's aging population.

Smart Living 360 Founder and CEO Ryan Frederick contributed to the report as a member of the Task Force's Advisory Council.

"It was an honor to be part of the Advisory Council," said Frederick. "America's current housing solutions for aging adults are inadequate. I support the recommendations in the BPC's report and hope that these findings garner the awareness and action they deserve."

The Bipartisan Policy Center established the Senior Health and Housing Task Force to draw public attention and develop solutions to very serious concerns regarding the explosive growth of the nation's senior population over the next 15 years. These concerns include insufficient housing for low-income seniors, shortage of available savings to fund supportive services and longer retirement years and lack of community support services that make it possible for seniors to "age in place."

A key premise of the report is that a greater integration of America's health care and housing systems will be absolutely essential to help manage chronic disease, improve health outcomes for seniors, and enable millions of Americans to age successfully in their own homes and communities. A growing body of evidence is also showing that more tightly linking health care with the home can reduce the costs borne by the health care system.

The Task Force identified the following recommendations as its highest priorities in light of their great potential to improve the lives of America’s seniors and their positive prospects for implementation:

1. Preventing and ending homelessness among older adults should become a major national priority. The U.S. Interagency Council on Homelessness should explicitly adopt a goal to prevent and end homelessness among older adults.
2. Congress and the administration should substantially increase federal support for the LIHTC program to help finance the production and preservation of additional units of affordable rental housing, including affordable homes for low-income seniors.
3. Congress and the administration should support continued funding at adequate levels for rental assistance and for service coordination under the Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly program and also create and fund a new program for senior-supportive housing.
4. Congress should authorize a new Modification Assistance Initiative (MAI) that would work on an interagency basis to coordinate federal resources available for home modifications to support aging with options.
5. States and municipalities should establish and expand programs to assist low-income seniors with home modifications through property tax credits, grants, or forgivable loans, and states should also protect and expand property tax circuit-breaker programs and other forms of property tax relief that are targeted to assist low- and moderate-income senior taxpayers.
6. CMS should launch an initiative that coordinates health care and LTSS for Medicare beneficiaries living in publicly assisted housing to test the potential of improving health outcomes of a vulnerable population and reducing health care costs.
7. The administration should ensure Medicare and other federal programs and policies support substantially reducing the number of older adult falls and their associated financial impacts.
8. CMS and the states should encourage greater reimbursement of telehealth and other technologies that have the potential to improve health outcomes and reduce costs.

“The Task Force’s report reiterates what we intuitively know: we must provide more and better housing options for seniors,” says Frederick. “Moreover, our goal should not necessarily be about keeping people in homes. Rather, it should be to create housing options where people can truly thrive. This requires innovative, creative solutions where seniors can live in community with individuals of all ages, yet still have easy access to healthcare and other supportive services. Communities like this are not a pipe dream. In fact, Smart Living 360 collaborated Federal Realty to design [The Stories](#)—an integrated community that provides walkability and a universal design that allows for interconnectedness.”

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About Smart Living 360 | www.SmartLiving360.com

Smart Living 360 creates innovative living environments that enhance well-being. Leaning on principles of connection, access and simplicity, we develop and operate inspired homes in walkable, intergenerational mixed-use urban and suburban areas.

About the Bipartisan Policy Center Senior Health and Housing Task Force |
www.bipartisanpolicy.org

The Bipartisan Policy Center formed the Senior Health and Housing Task Force to underscore the synergies between health care and housing in fostering improved health outcomes, cost savings, and enhanced quality of life for America's aging population. It is supported by grants from the Kresge Foundation and the John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation. The findings and recommendations expressed herein do not necessarily represent the views or opinions of the Bipartisan Policy Center's founders or its board of directors; nor does it represent the views or opinions of Advisory Council members or their respective organizations.