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**Rep. Maxine Waters to Speak on Feb. 1 at Inaugural Event for Advocates for African American Elders at the USC Edward R. Roybal Institute on Aging**

LOS ANGELES, January, 16, 2013—Advocates for African American Elders (AAAE), an outreach and engagement partnership of the USC Edward R. Roybal Institute on Aging at the USC School of Social Work, will host its inaugural event featuring Rep. Maxine Waters (D-CA) on Feb. 1, 2013 from 4 p.m. to 5:30 p.m. at the Ahmanson Senior Center in Los Angeles, California.

Last year, Rep. Waters introduced H.R. 2800, a bill to reauthorize the Missing Alzheimer’s Disease Patient Alert Program. She will discuss the bill with the community at the event and be honored for her long-standing service and advocacy on behalf of older adults and other vulnerable populations.

“We are truly honored to have Congresswoman Waters speak at our inaugural event,” said Karen D. Lincoln, chair of AAAE and associate director of the USC Roybal Institute. “Her advocacy on the part of those with Alzheimer’s disease and their families is a testament to her many years of fervent service and commitment to our communities and to our seniors, in particular.”

AAAE’s first public event aims to raise awareness about Rep. Water’s bill and introduce the broader community to the work that AAAE is engaged with on behalf of African American seniors. The partnership’s mission is to help older African Americans in Los Angeles advocate for their health and mental health needs.

As well as catalyzing general advocacy efforts to improve the delivery of health services for African American communities, AAAE will seek to strengthen collaboration between agencies and community organizations, develop training programs and mental health interventions specifically tailored for African American older adults, and increase health literacy among the target population.

“Our goal is to help seniors age in place and remain a vital part of the community,” Lincoln said. “Through our advocacy efforts, we hope to increase access to culturally competent services and to educate seniors and their caregivers about available services and issues that impact them so that they can be better advocates for themselves.”

Members of community-university partnership include activists and leaders from the USC Roybal Institute, the Los Angeles County Department of Mental Health, Pacific Clinics, the Alzheimer's Association, AARP, Ward Economic Development Corporation, California Senior Leaders and local churches.

The USC Roybal Institute is dedicated to translational research and training that promotes and sustains optimal physical, mental, and social functioning of older persons from low-income and multiethnic backgrounds so they may age successfully in their communities. One of the ways it fulfills its mission is by fostering and strengthening community-university partnerships like AAAE, which result in exchanges of knowledge and participation in coalitions and community-based research.