

March 21, 2016

The Honorable John Kline
Chairman, Committee on
Education & the Workforce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Robert C. Scott
Ranking Member, Committee on
Education & the Workforce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Kline and Ranking Member Scott:

On behalf of the undersigned organizations, we are pleased to offer our support of the House Amendment to Senate Bill S. 192 to reauthorize the Older Americans Act. On July 16, 2015, the Senate passed S. 192, the Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act of 2015, under unanimous consent. We supported that bipartisan measure, and the undersigned organizations encourage all Members of the House of Representatives to approve the modest changes included in the House version of the bill without delay. We sincerely thank you and your staff for all the work that brought us to this milestone in the process.

Since 1965, the OAA has been essential to developing, coordinating, and delivering home and community-based services that help older adults age with independence and dignity in their homes and communities. Many individuals served by OAA-funded programs are at significant risk of hunger, isolation, and losing their ability to remain healthy and independent.

OAA-supported programs such as home-delivered and congregate meals, transportation services, caregiver assistance, and elder abuse protections are just some of the vital services the OAA provides to more than 11 million seniors and caregivers annually. The OAA also includes the Senior Community Service Employment Program, the only federal workforce program targeted to help low-income older adults prepare for and obtain employment in the community, and the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program that advocates for seniors who live in long-term care facilities. S. 192 preserves and improves the current law and its critically important programs.

By keeping seniors healthy and in their communities, OAA programs delay, decrease and can even prevent the need for more expensive hospitalization and even institutional care—such as that paid for through Medicare and Medicaid—effectively saving taxpayer dollars and improving our country's fiscal future. Given the importance of OAA programs to older adults, families, and caregivers across the country, we support S. 192's swift passage in the House and look forward to seeing the bill signed into law this year.

We stand ready to work with you to build upon the success of the OAA in the current reauthorization process and beyond.

Sincerely,

AARP

Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics

Aging Life Care Association

Alliance for Aging Research

Alliance to End Hunger

Alzheimer's Association

Alzheimer's Foundation of America

American Association of Nurse Assessment Coordination

American Psychological Association

American Public Health Association

American Society on Aging

B'nai B'rith International

Benjamin Rose Institute

Bread for the World

Caring Across Generations

Coalition on Human Needs

Community Action Partnership

DefeatMalnutrition.Today

Easter Seals

Eldercare Workforce Alliance

Feeding America

Hispanic Dental Association (HDA)

Hunger Free America

Islamic Relief USA

Justice In Aging

LeadingAge

Lutheran Services in America

MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger

Meals on Wheels America

National Adult Protective Services Association

National Alliance for Caregiving

National Asian Pacific Center on Aging

National Asso. For Hispanic Elderly

National Association for Home Care & Hospice

National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a)

National Association of Counties

National Association of County Human Services Administrators

National Association of Development Organizations

National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs (NANASP)

National Association of Regional Councils

National Association of Social Workers (NASW)

National Association of State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs (NASOP)

National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities

National Center for Creative Aging

National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare

National Commodity Supplemental Food Program Association
National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care
National Council on Aging
National Senior Corps Association
Oral Health America (OHA)
OWL-The Voice of women 40+

RESULTS

Society for Nutrition Education & Behavior
The American Geriatrics Society
The Association of Jewish Family and Children's Agencies
The Gerontological Society of America
The Jewish Federations of North America
Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement

cc: The Honorable Virginia Foxx, Chairwoman,
Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training
The Honorable Ruben Hinojosa, Ranking Member,
Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training
Members of the House Committee on Education & the Workforce