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Senator and Senior Advocates Urge Congress to Invest in Older Americans

Washington, D.C. – At a Congressional briefing held today, Sen. Gordon Smith (R-Ore.) and members of the Leadership Council of Aging Organizations (LCAO), a national coalition of 54 not-for-profit organizations that serve older Americans, jointly called on Congress to increase funding for Older Americans Act (OAA) programs by 10 percent.

This call comes at a time when 37 million Americans over 65 and the aging population is booming, the LCAO therefore is urging Congress to increase funding for OAA programs by ten percent.

The OAA funds programs that provide older Americans with the essential supportive services they need to age independently and in their own homes. These services include home-delivered meals, family caregiver support, transportation and adult day care. A funding increase would ensure that individuals continue to receive the care and services they need to age with dignity and independence.

This briefing is part of the LCAO’s “Invest in Older Americans” campaign during Older Americans Month. Throughout May, LCAO members from across the country have hosted events, written letters to the editor and contacted their legislators about the value of more OAA funding for America’s older adults.

“I am concerned that we are unprepared to properly care for our nation’s seniors as our aging population continues to grow,” Senator Smith said. “This change in our age demographic demands a greater investment in programs that provide vital support services to our seniors. A significant increase in OAA funding is necessary in order to appropriately equip our nation to reach out and support those in need.”

“As our nation’s aging population continues to grow, an investment in the OAA is an investment in security and safety for the future,” Larry Minnix, LCAO convener and president & CEO of the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging said. “And that’s a future where all older Americans to receive the services they need, when they need them, in a place they call home. “

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About LCAO

The Leadership Council of Aging Organizations (LCAO) is a coalition of national nonprofit organizations concerned with the well-being of America’s older population and committed to representing their interest in the policy-making arena. Our 54 members offer expertise and advocacy on a broad range of issues affecting the elderly and those who care for them. We focus on ensuring social justice and fiscal responsibility for an aging society.