



Leadership Council  
of Aging Organizations

*William (Larry) Minnix, Jr., Chair*

July 26, 2006

Sent Via Fax

House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Member of Congress:

We, the undersigned members of the Leadership Council of Aging Organizations (LCAO) write to express our opposition to two bills recently reported by the Government Reform Committee, both of which relate to Sunset Commissions. Supporters of these bills, H.R. 3282 and H.R.5766, claim they are necessary to restore fiscal responsibility. In fact these bills are unnecessary measures which would jeopardize important programs, while promoting partisanship and doing nothing to insert greater fiscal responsibility into the budget process.

**H.R. 3282 (the Brady bill)** would create a single “sunset commission” with the authority to review all federal agencies. Its reviews would trigger *automatic* terminations of federal agencies, even without a commission vote to do so, unless Congress took specific action to prevent such terminations.

**H.R. 5766 (the Tiahrt bill)** would allow multiple “sunset commissions” to be appointed, consisting solely of members named by the President. The commissions would be empowered to make recommendations about terminating or revamping federal agencies and programs, but would not be required to hold any public hearings. Congress would be required to consider their recommendations under fast-track procedures that prohibit any amendments.

Granting such broad and expansive power to a commission is both dangerous and unnecessary. Congress already has sufficient power and authority to deal with obsolete or inefficient federal programs, through the authorization process and the appropriations process, and also by exercising oversight responsibility. Despite the remarks made by some prominent supporters suggesting that entitlement programs would be safe, neither bill exempts the entitlements on which millions of people depend. We believe that changes to programs such as Social Security, Medicare and Medicaid should be openly and carefully considered on a bipartisan basis using regular legislative processes that have been developed to protect these important programs.

We urge you to vote “No” on both of these dangerous bills when they come to the House floor. Thank you for considering our views.

*AFL-CIO*  
*AFSCME Retiree Program*  
*Alliance for Retired Americans*  
*American Association for International Aging*  
*American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging*

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*American Federation of Teachers*  
*American Postal Workers Union Retirees*  
*Asociacion Nacional Pro Personas Mayores/National Association for Hispanic Elderly*  
*Association for Gerontology and Human Development in Historically Black Colleges and Universities*  
*B'nai B'rith International*  
*Families USA*  
*Gray Panthers*  
*International Union, United Auto Workers*  
*National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys*  
*National Adult Day Services Association*  
*National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs*  
*National Association of Professional Geriatric Care Managers*  
*National Association of Retired and Senior Volunteer Program Directors, Inc.*  
*National Association of Senior Companion Project Directors*  
*National Association of State Long Term Care Ombudsman Programs*  
*National Citizens' Coalition for Nursing Home Reform*  
*National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare*  
*National Council On Aging*  
*OWL, The Voice of Midlife and Older Women*