



Leadership Council of Aging Organizations

William (Larry) Minnix, Jr., Chair

September 23, 2011

The Honorable John Kline, Chair
U.S. House Committee on Education
and the Workforce
2181 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Virginia Foxx, Chair
House Subcommittee on Higher
Education and Workforce Training
2181 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable George Miller, Ranking
Member
2205 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Ruben Hinojosa,
Ranking Member
2262 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leaders of the Committee and Subcommittee:

The following members of the Leadership Council of Aging Organizations (LCAO) urge you to address the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act (OAA) this year.

LCAO is a 66-member coalition of diverse national nonprofit organizations dedicated to preserving and strengthening the well-being of older Americans. With a strong commitment to the needs of our older population and recognition of the challenging fiscal environment, the coalition provides leadership and vision as America meets the challenges and opportunities presented by its aging society.

Since 1965, the Older Americans Act has served millions of older adults by providing home and community-based services. As a Baby Boomer in America will turn 60 every seven seconds this year and the senior population will double by 2030, OAA programs will be all the more critical in the months and years ahead.

OAA programs help older Americans maintain or improve their health, age with dignity and remain in their homes and communities through home-delivered and congregate meal programs, in-home services, health and wellness programs at senior centers, jobs and training, transportation, family caregiver support, information, referral and assistance, elder abuse prevention and ombudsman services, and more. Its programs reach every state and congressional district in our nation.

Federal funding for OAA programs help leverage state, local and private dollars, creating private-public partnerships at the local level to offer older adults, particularly those most vulnerable in that community, a range of options to help them age in place. Additionally,

the Act saves taxpayer dollars by keeping older Americans in their homes, off Medicaid and able to stretch their own resources further.

Your commitment to reauthorizing this Act will reassure the millions of older Americans, their families and caregivers who rely on OAA services and supports. The OAA has been reauthorized 13 times in its history, and has a rich tradition of bipartisan support.

LCAO is deeply committed to the Older Americans Act, its current programs as well as to improvements that can be made for its future. As we confront the issues of an aging population, the Older Americans Act must remain a centerpiece of our nation's aging policy.

We appreciate your consideration of our views and look forward to working with you on this reauthorization.

Sincerely,

AARP

Alliance for Retired Americans

Alzheimer's Foundation of America

American Postal Workers Union Retirees (APWU)

American Society on Aging (ASA)

Association for Gerontology and Human Development in Historically Black Colleges and Universities (AGHDHBCU)

B'nai B'rith International

Center for Medicare Advocacy (CMA)

Easter Seals

The Gerontological Society of America (GSA)

The Jewish Federations of North America

LeadingAge

Meals on Wheels Association of America (MOWAA)

Medicare Rights Center

National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys (NAELA)

National Active and Retired Federal Employees Association (NARFE)

National Alliance for Caregiving

National Association for Home Care & Hospice (NAHC)

National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a)
National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs (NANASP)
National Association of Professional Geriatric Care Managers (NAPGCM)
National Association of Retired and Senior Volunteer Program Directors, Inc.
(NARSVPD)
National Association of Social Workers (NASW)
National Association of State Long-Term Care Ombudsman (NASOP)
National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities (NASUAD)
National Caucus and Center on Black Aged, Inc. (NCBA)
National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare (NCPSSM)
The National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care
National Council on Aging (NCOA)
National Hispanic Council on Aging (NHCOA)
National Osteoporosis Foundation (NOF)
National Senior Citizens Law Center (NSCLC)
National Senior Corps Association (NSCA)
OWL-The Voice of Midlife and Older Women
PHI - Quality Care through Quality Jobs
Senior Service America, Inc. (SSA)
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
Volunteers of America
Wider Opportunities for Women (WOW)
Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement (WISER)
Lutheran Services in America (LSA)