



Leadership Council of Aging Organizations

James P. Firman, Chair

April 22, 2013

United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative:

The Leadership Council of Aging Organizations (LCAO) is a coalition of 68 national nonprofit organizations concerned with the wellbeing of America's older population and committed to representing their interests in the policy-making arena.

Signed into law in 1965, the Older Americans Act (OAA) is a primary vehicle for developing, coordinating, and delivering the home and community-based services that help older adults maintain their independence. Since the statute's most recent expiration in 2011, the LCAO has urged Congress to continue the tradition of a bipartisan, timely reauthorization that will strengthen the Act and thus improve the lives of the individuals and caregivers it serves. Today, we remain committed to that goal and ask the 113th Congress to ensure its completion.

To that end, we respectfully share the [LCAO's consensus recommendations](http://www.lcao.org/files/2012/12/LCAO-Consensus-Document-on-OAA-Reauthorization-040611.pdf) for the reauthorization of the OAA, which can be found on the LCAO website (<http://www.lcao.org/files/2012/12/LCAO-Consensus-Document-on-OAA-Reauthorization-040611.pdf>) Originally adopted in 2011, the LCAO's recommendations address the economic and demographic challenges facing the OAA and the Aging Network. With our nation's population of older adults projected to grow exponentially in the coming years, so too will grow the corresponding demand on OAA programs. This major influx of older adults will enter an already stressed system, as OAA funding has not kept pace with inflation or population growth for decades and is insufficient to keep up with increased need. Additionally, local, state, and federal resources will continue to be strained into the foreseeable future, due to the economic downturn's lingering effects and the Budget Control Act's current and future reductions.

In this environment of fiscal uncertainty and restraint, the LCAO seeks to preserve and strengthen the OAA without making major changes to the Act's core services or infrastructure. Accordingly, in our recommendations, we look to improve the OAA through greater program coordination, enhanced service delivery, the availability of adequate resources, and heightened administrative flexibility.

The LCAO has played a significant leadership role in past reauthorizations, and we stand ready to work with you to build upon the successes of the OAA in the current reauthorization process and beyond.

Sincerely,

AARP
AFSCME Retirees
AFT Retirees
Alliance for Retired Americans
American Society on Aging
Association for Gerontology and Human Development in Historically Black Colleges and Universities
Association of BellTel Retirees
B'nai B'rith International
The Catholic Health Association of the United States
Center for Medicare Advocacy, Inc.
Easter Seals
Experience Works
The Gerontological Association of America
Gray Panthers
International Association for Indigenous Aging
LeadingAge
Lutheran Services in America
Meals On Wheels Association of America
Medicare Rights Center
National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys
National Alliance for Caregiving
National Association for Hispanic Elderly
National Association of Area Agencies on Aging
National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs
National Association of Professional Geriatric Care Managers
National Association of Social Workers (NASW)
National Association of State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs
National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities
National Caucus and Center on Black Aged, Inc.
National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare
National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care
National Council on Aging
National Indian Council on Aging
National Senior Citizens Law Center
OWL-The Voice of Midlife and Older Women
Pension Rights Center
PHI – Quality Care *Through* Quality Jobs
Senior Service America, Inc.
Service Employees International Union (SEIU)
Services and Advocacy for GLBT Elders (SAGE)
Southeast Asia Resource Action Center
The Jewish Federations of North America
Wider Opportunities for Women (WOW)
Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement (WISER)