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Nation's Aging Organizations Urge President Obama Not to Shift More Costs onto America's Seniors

Leaders Express Concern over FY14 Budget Proposals

Washington, DC (April 30, 2013) – The Leadership Council of Aging Organizations (LCAO)—who together represent over 60 million older Americans—today expressed serious concern over key proposals in President Obama's FY 2014 budget that would harm seniors, especially the most vulnerable.

LCAO is a coalition of 68 national nonprofit organizations concerned with the well-being of America's older population. The National Council on Aging (NCOA) currently chairs the group.

While the President's plan would take a more balanced approach to deficit reduction than the House budget, LCAO is concerned that key proposals would be harmful for America's seniors by asking them to pay even more for their health care or by cutting key benefits and services they rely on to meet their basic needs. Half of the Medicare population lives on annual incomes of \$22,500 or less, and they already face significant out-of-pocket health costs.

In particular, LCAO members are concerned with the President's proposals to:

- Use the Chained Consumer Price Index (Chained CPI) to determine Social Security cost-of-living adjustments, which would substantially reduce benefits for current and future beneficiaries.
- Shift Medicare costs onto beneficiaries, such as through new home health copayments and higher Part B deductibles.
- Cut an additional \$200 million from discretionary programs.

"LCAO believes in a balanced approach to deficit reduction that includes budget savings from increases in revenue and thoughtful, targeted reductions in spending when and where necessary, without increasing hunger, poverty, or income inequality," said James Firman, NCOA president and LCAO chair.

The complete letter is available at www.lcao.org/lcao-response-fy14-budget-request or by visiting www.lcao.org.