



Leadership Council
of Aging Organizations

Max Richtman, Chair

May 12, 2016

The Honorable Barack Obama
The White House
Washington, DC 20500

Dear President Obama:

The Leadership Council of Aging Organizations (LCAO) is a coalition of 72 national nonprofit organizations concerned with the well-being of America's seniors and committed to representing their interests in the policy-making arena. I am writing on behalf of LCAO members to thank you for signing S. 192, the "Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act of 2016," into Public Law 114-144 and for your efforts to support a bipartisan legislative process to achieve reauthorization. Your strong message of support for reauthorization at the 2015 White House Conference on Aging and the steadfast support of Assistant Secretary for Aging Kathy Greenlee are greatly appreciated.

LCAO supported a reauthorization that reaffirms the Older Americans Act (OAA) mission and protects its services, and we appreciate your efforts to make reauthorization of this critical legislation a reality in 2016. As you know, the OAA is a primary vehicle for developing, coordinating, and delivering home and community-based services that help older adults maintain their independence and dignity. The OAA also includes the only federal workforce program targeted to help low-income older adults prepare for and obtain employment in the community and a long-term care ombudsman program that protects the rights of seniors living in institutions.

Your signature on this bill reaffirms the commitment you have made to keep seniors healthy and in their communities, which can delay or prevent the need for more expensive institutional care, such as that paid for through Medicare and Medicaid. By helping seniors age in place, OAA programs can improve our country's fiscal future and promote efficiencies within the health care system.

Most importantly, we appreciate that the reauthorization preserves the numerous ways in which this Act works so well at the federal, state and local levels to support and preserve the dignity, independence, health, safety and economic security of older adults and their caregivers.

Sincerely,



Max Richtman
Chair

cc: Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Sylvia Burwell
Assistant Secretary for Aging Kathy Greenlee