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Congressional Hearing Confirms Strong Support for Older Americans Act Programs

House Committee Formally Begins Process to Reauthorize Key Legislation for Seniors

Alexandria, VA, February 12, 2014 – The U.S. House [Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Training](#) held a Congressional hearing yesterday to highlight Older Americans Act (OAA) programs – such as Meals on Wheels – and the millions of vulnerable seniors it serves every year. The Subcommittee is led by [Chairwoman Virginia Foxx \(R-NC\)](#) and [Ranking Member Ruben Hinojosa \(D-TX\)](#), and is responsible for overseeing all programs and services for seniors, among other legislative issues. Below are highlights:

The hearing entitled, “Serving Seniors Through the Older Americans Act,” allowed Members of Congress an opportunity to publically discuss policy priorities for reauthorizing the Act and hear directly from aging experts, advocates, and service providers.

The panel selected to testify before the Subcommittee included Meals On Wheels Association of America Member Denise Niese, Executive Director, [Wood County Committee on Aging, Inc.](#), and [National Nutrition Resource Center](#) Steering Committee Chair, Carol O’Shaughnessy.

Throughout the hearing, more than a dozen Members of Congress from both sides of the aisle expressed their support for OAA programs and services, a willingness and desire to reauthorize the Act in a bipartisan way, and commended the OAA as a prime example of a successful public-private partnership. Members remarked that the Act is “a good function of government,” an “example of good partnerships” and “can be a model program” for Federal government involvement and support.

As the reauthorization process moves forward, our Association looks forward to working with Congress to strengthen and protect the OAA and ultimately ensure that it supports the expanded delivery of millions of additional meals to thousands of more seniors in need. In doing so, our nation will receive the dual benefit of making a dent in senior hunger and significantly reducing Medicare and Medicaid expenditures.

Find more information on this hearing and read the written testimony [here](#).

About Meals On Wheels Association of America

The Meals On Wheels Association of America is the only national organization and network dedicated solely to ending senior hunger in America. The Association is the oldest and largest organization composed of and representing local, community-based Senior Nutrition Programs in all 50 states and U.S. territories. More than 5,000 local Meals on Wheels Programs leverage a dedicated army of two million volunteers who day-in and day-out create an efficient and caring way to help America’s seniors stay independent, healthy and able to live in their own homes. For more information, or to locate a local Meals on Wheels program, visit mowaa.org.