**ONE MINUTE SPEECH TEMPLATE**

Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak about a public-private partnership that creates tremendous impact in the communities I represent – Meals on Wheels.

Today, a national army of two million volunteers is preparing and delivering nearly 1 million meals to America’s most vulnerable, hungry and isolated seniors. Programs like [Member Name] in [City, State], which is located in my [State/District], and more than 5,000 other Meals on Wheels programs across the country are supported by federal funding and the Older Americans Act that enables them to provide more than just meals. Together, the nutritious meals and the safety checks and friendly visits they deliver day after day allow seniors to age in their own homes with the independence and dignity they deserve.

The precious and powerful combination of nutrition and socialization is proven to improve health, reduce falls, avert unnecessary visits to the ER, reduce hospital admissions and readmissions, and prevent premature institutionalization. This, in turn, saves billions of dollars in Medicare and Medicaid expenses.

***In fact, a Meals on Wheels program can provide a senior with meals for an entire year for about the same cost as one day in the hospital or less than ten days in a nursing home***.

Today, I call on all of my colleagues to learn more about these vital programs, the seniors they serve and the grave, growing and expensive problem of senior hunger – a problem that will undoubtedly worsen if left unaddressed. I urge all of us to work together to ensure that Older Americans Act (OAA) Nutrition Programs are adequately funded in FY 2017 and that they are protected from unnecessary sequestration in the years ahead.

Thank you, Mr. Speaker, [and, I yield back my time].