



July 13, 2021

The Honorable Patty Murray, Chair, Senate HELP Committee, and Chair, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor/HHS/Education

The Honorable Roy Blunt, Ranking Member, Senate Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor/HHS/Education

The Honorable Richard Burr, Ranking Member, Senate HELP Committee
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro, Chair, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor/HHS/Education

The Honorable Tom Cole, Ranking Member, House Appropriations Subcommittee on Labor/HHS/Education

The Honorable Bobby Scott, Chair, House Education and Labor Committee

The Honorable Virginia Foxx, Ranking Member, House Education and Labor Committee
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Senators Murray, Blunt and Burr and Representatives DeLauro, Cole, Scott and Foxx:

On behalf of our organizations that collectively represent the state agencies, Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs), local senior nutrition and other aging services providers serving more than 10 million older adults each year through the Older Americans Act (OAA), we are writing to request a waiver of match requirements for the OAA funding under the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA). We write with gratitude for the generous and critically needed OAA investments made by Congress in ARPA—it is a vital infusion of resources to ensure that older adults and caregivers will continue to receive the services and supports delivered by the Aging Network in communities across the country, allowing them to age well and safely as our nation continues to respond to and begins to emerge from the pandemic into recovery. We once again thank you.

Previous COVID-19 relief packages, including the Families First, CARES and the Consolidated Appropriations Acts, all included a waiver of the state and local match in order to expedite funding, but the OAA match remains in place for ARPA funding. The state and local match for services (25 percent in total) is proving to be a barrier for states and AAAs in quickly accessing the ARPA funding for implementation of OAA programs, which in turn also affects local service providers. States and AAAs have reported challenges such as legislatures that have concluded for the year, limited availability of state and local revenues, and/or the difficulty of raising a large match in a short period of time.

We have come together to urge you to retroactively waive the ARPA match for OAA services so that the vital investment can most swiftly and effectively be put to use on behalf of older adults

and caregivers in communities across the country. We have attached language for this technical fix and look forward to discussing this further as you advance your respective appropriations bills.

Thank you for all you have done for older adults and caregivers during this long crisis. We look forward to continuing to work together on these pressing issues and on behalf of our nation's most vulnerable.

Sincerely,



Martha Roherty, Executive Director
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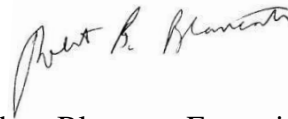
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Ranking Member Richard Shelby, Senate Appropriations Committee
Ranking Member Kay Granger, House Appropriations Committee
Members of the House and Senate Labor/HHS/Education Subcommittees
Chairwoman Suzanne Bonamici, House Education and Labor Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Human Services
Ranking Member Russ Fulcher, House Education and Labor Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Human Services