

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

March 19, 2018

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chair
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Appropriations Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor-HHS-Education
Appropriations Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

Thank you for your ongoing support for programs that help older Americans live active and independent lives. As you develop the Fiscal Year (FY) 2019 appropriations bill for the U.S. Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, we urge you to prioritize programs under Title III of the Older Americans Act (OAA)—programs that help older Americans age successfully at home and in their communities—by funding the programs at the authorized levels.

Over the years, OAA programs have played an essential role in advancing the health and well-being of older adults. These programs provide millions of American seniors, many of whom are low-income, the resources necessary to reduce hunger and isolation while maintaining their dignity, health, and independence. The services provided through the OAA enable seniors to live in their own homes while saving taxpayer dollars through reduced hospital and institutional care.

The recent bipartisan reauthorization of the Older Americans Act included specific increases in funding authorization for these programs. We respectfully request funding that reflects those authorized amounts for the following Older Americans Act Title III Programs within the Administration for Community Living's (ACL) budget for the Administration on Aging (AoA).

OAA Title III B Home and Community-Based Supportive Services (HCBS):

The Home and Community-Based Supportive Services program authorized in Title III, Part B, of the Older Americans Act (OAA) provides critical resources to states and local Area Agencies on Aging. Community-based agencies rely on these resources to offer an array of supportive services that are essential to keeping older adults in their homes and communities, including in-home assistance and wrap-around services, adult day care, transportation services including to meal sites and medical appointments, access to legal assistance and elder justice assistance, case management and care coordination services, and many others. Title III B services are essential to providing access to other OAA programs, such as congregate and home-delivered meals, for many older adults and caregivers. Overall, Title III, Part B, funding is used to deliver more than 20 distinctive services to help older adults and caregivers.

For these reasons, we respectfully ask that you appropriate for the HCBS program \$372.2 million, the amount unanimously approved in the 2016 OAA reauthorization. When older adults are able to live independently, our country's communities are strengthened and taxpayers and families avoid paying for more expensive acute health care and long-term care services.

OAA Title III C Congregate Nutrition Services and Home-Delivered Nutrition Services:

In 2015, more than 2.4 million seniors received 80 million nutritious meals at senior centers and charitable community organizations, with public-private partnerships like Meals on Wheels delivering 142 million meals to economically and socially vulnerable seniors. For the majority of these seniors, the meals provided more than one-half their food for the entire day. These programs, however, are more than just food. Home-delivered nutrition services often provide participants their only opportunity for face-to-face contact or conversation, and two-thirds of congregate meal participants report that their health has improved because they attend lunch programs.

It is for these reasons that we respectfully request the subcommittee include \$480 million for ACL Congregate nutrition services and \$242.3 million for Home-delivered nutrition services. These vital programs authorized under the Older Americans Act help fulfill our nation's commitment to maintaining dignity and independent living regardless of income or location.

OAA Title III E National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP):


The National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP) offers a range of supports to family caregivers, including assistance in accessing services such as respite care, counseling, support groups, and caregiver training. Every year, caregivers provide more than \$480 billion worth of unpaid care to older adults and people with disabilities. The NFCSP provides essential supports, delivered through the Aging Network via state and local agencies, to informal caregivers who are an essential component to long-term care delivery in the country. We request that you fund OAA Title III, Part E at \$160.8 million.

Thank you for your consideration of this request and we look forward to working with you to make sure America's older adults receive the supportive services they need to live independently.

Sincerely,


Suzanne Bonamici
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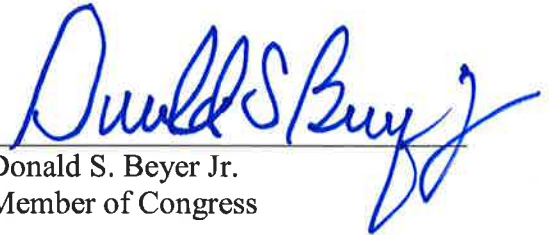
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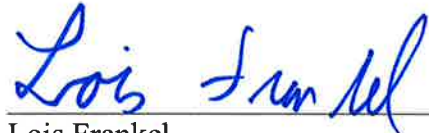
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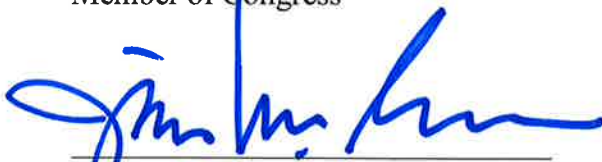
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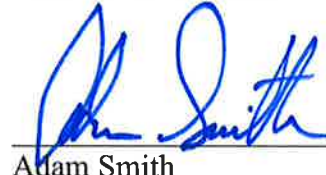
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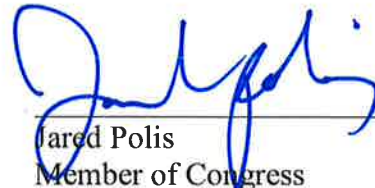
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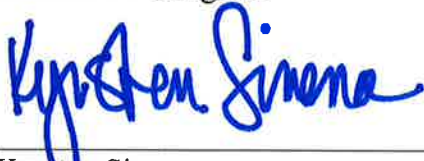
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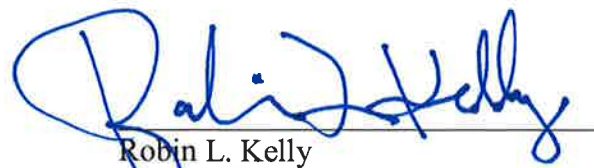

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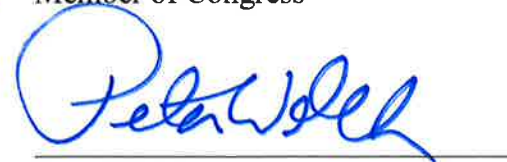

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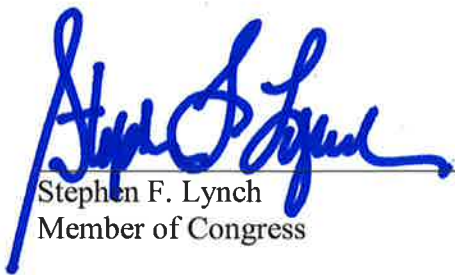

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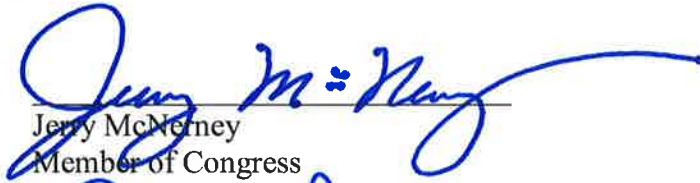

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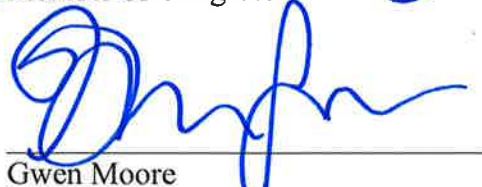

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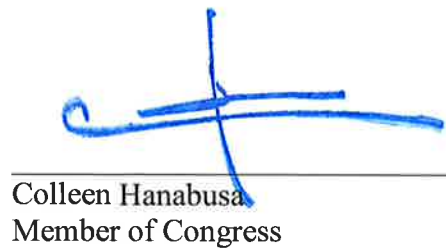

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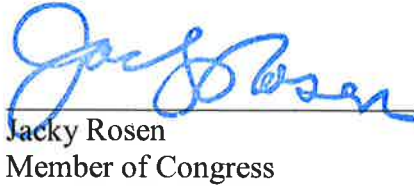

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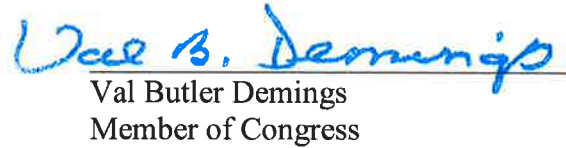

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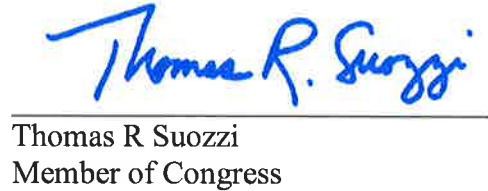

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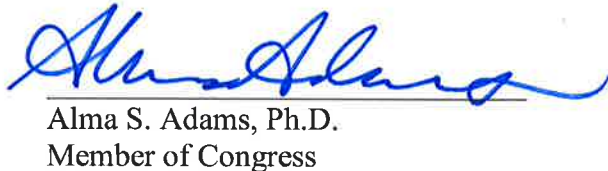

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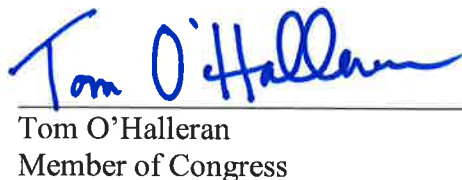

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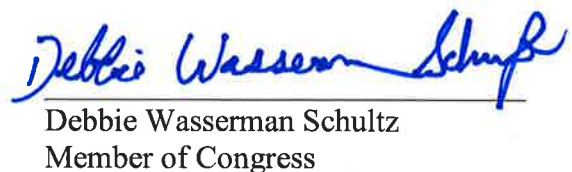

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