

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

April 28, 2021

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

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

Dear Chairwoman DeLauro and Ranking Member Cole:

Thank you for your ongoing support for programs that help older Americans live active and independent lives. As you develop the Fiscal Year (FY) 2022 appropriations bill for the U.S. Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, we urge you to prioritize programs within the Administration for Community Living's (ACL) budget for the Administration on Aging (AoA). These programs under Title III of the Older Americans Act (OAA) help older Americans age successfully at home and in their communities. To more adequately address the needs of a rapidly growing aging and caregiving population, particularly as the aging network continues to face greatly increased demand for services as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic, we request a total funding level of \$3.117 billion for OAA Title III programs in FY22.

Over the years, OAA programs have served an essential role in advancing the health and well-being of older adults. Throughout the COVID-19 pandemic, this role has been proven even more essential. These programs provide millions of American seniors, many of whom are low-income, the services 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.

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

The Home and Community-Based Supportive Services program authorized in Title III 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 helping older adults in stay 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 and other community resources through information and referral services for older adults and caregivers. Overall, Title III 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 \$785 million for the HCBS program. 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 2019, prior to the pandemic, nearly 2.4 million economically and socially vulnerable seniors received more than 73 million nutritious meals via senior centers and other local community-based organizations, and almost 150 million meals delivered to their homes by public-private partnerships like Meals on Wheels. The number of older adults served by the OAA Title III C Nutrition Program has since increased significantly due to COVID-19. For most of these seniors, the meals provided about one-half or more of their food for the entire day. These programs, however, are more than just food and often provide participants their only opportunity for face-to-face contact or social connection in a time of increased isolation.

It is for these reasons that we respectfully request the subcommittee include \$1.904 billion for OAA Title III C, which includes the Congregate and Home-Delivered Nutrition programs. These vital services 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 D Evidence-Based Health Promotion and Disease Prevention:

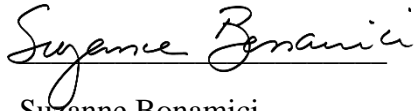
OAA Title III D programs deliver evidence-based health promotion and disease prevention through the Aging Network to prevent or better manage the conditions that most affect quality of life, drive up health care costs, and reduce the ability of older adults to live independently. Typical interventions promoted by III D programs address the risk of falls, chronic diseases, mental health, and medication management. We request that you fund OAA Title III D at \$50 million to improve the health and independence of older Americans who benefit from these proven interventions.

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 nearly a half-trillion dollars' worth of unpaid care to older adults and people with disabilities. The NFCSP is the only nationwide program that 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 E at \$378 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,



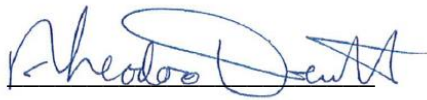
Suzanne Bonamici

Member of Congress



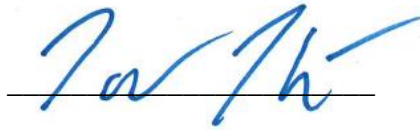
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Fiscal Year 2022 Signatories – April 28, 2021**

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