



Leaders in Aging Well at Home

July 18, 2024

The Honorable Tammy Baldwin, Chair  
The Honorable Shelley Moore Capito, Ranking Member  
Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education  
Senate Committee on Appropriations  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chair Baldwin and Ranking Member Capito:

As your subcommittee consider the FY 2025 Labor/HHS/Education appropriations bill this month, USAgging urges you to prioritize Older Americans Act (OAA) and other programs that provide a range of critical services to support older adults in aging successfully at home and in their communities. USAgging represents the country's 614 Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) and advocates for the more than 280 Title VI Native American Aging Programs. Our members are the local leaders that develop, coordinate and deliver a wide range of home and community-based services, including information and referral/assistance, case management, home-delivered and congregate meals, in-home services, caregiver supports, transportation, evidence-based health and wellness programs, long-term care ombudsman programs and more.

The FY 2025 bill marked up by the House Appropriations Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies (Labor-HHS) Subcommittee poses a significant threat to several important aging programs. **While we are grateful for and support the House's increases to USAgging's top OAA priorities which were included in our [initial appropriations request](#) (Title III B Home and Community-Based Supportive Services, Title III E Caregiving and Title VI Native American Aging Programs), the proposed cuts to other aging programs (OAA Title III C nutrition, Title V workforce supports for low-income older adults and Adult Protective Services) would cause serious harm to the older adults served by the Aging Network and others.**

**We urge you to at least mirror the House’s increases to OAA Titles III B, III E and VI in your bill.** This funding is desperately needed given the rapid growth in the number of older adults, the increasing complexity of need our members are seeing in all communities, and the rising costs of providing these life-saving services.

We urge you to also reject the House’s proposal to significantly cut or eliminate funding for: OAA Title III C1 Congregate Meals and C2 Home-Delivered Meals (ACL/HHS), the OAA Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP; DOL), Adult Protective Services (APS; ACL/HHS).

**The combined \$37 million proposed cut for OAA Title III C1 Congregate Meals and C2 Home-Delivered Meals would, if finalized, force the Aging Network to reduce the number of meals served overall and reduce the number of older adults who can access these vital nutrition programs.** The FY 2024 levels were already not enough for the Aging Network to provide these services to all older adults and these cuts would most certainly result in an increase in hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition for many older adults across the country.

The House Committee also moved to cut funding entirely for the **OAA’s Title V Senior Community Service Employment Program** which puts low-income, unemployed older adults at risk. This is the *only* federal program that supports low-income older adults with employment assistance and the opportunity to gain work experience. Removing this program entirely would leave the most vulnerable older adults with limited to no options to support themselves and their families financially. We hope the Senate will provide at least level funding for Title V SCSEP.

Additionally, please restore the House’s cut to the only source of federal funding for **Adult Protective Services**, which would leave older adults at higher risk of mistreatment, exploitation and abuse.

Though we are glad to see the House’s restoration of \$20 million to the **Nutrition Services Incentive Program (NSIP)**, also under the OAA, which was cut by \$48 million in FY 2024, we urge the Committee to completely restore NSIP funding back to the FY 2023 levels. The House also

proposed to move NSIP from the U.S. Administration for Community Living (ACL) to the U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA). USDA previously administered NSIP until 2006, but USAging urges the Committee to allow ACL to remain as the authorizing agency for NSIP. This funding builds on and rewards the OAA Title III C nutrition programs and provides critical resources that allow the Aging Network to serve more older adults with nutritious meals and social engagement.

Lastly, we strongly urge you to restore funding for the **Community Care Corps** (in which USAging is a partner) in ACL's budget. This national program awards grants to local organizations and adequate funding is critical to grow innovative volunteer programs that support older adults, people with disabilities and family caregivers with non-medical care in their homes.

Thank you for your consideration of our recommendations. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me or Amy Gotwals, Chief, Public Policy and External Affairs, and Olivia Umoren, Director, Public Policy and Advocacy, [policy@usaging.org](mailto:policy@usaging.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sandy Markwood".

Sandy Markwood  
Chief Executive Officer

cc:

Chair Patty Murray, Senate Appropriations Committee  
Vice Chair Susan Collins, Senate Appropriations Committee  
Members of the Senate Labor/HHS/Education Subcommittees