

Advocacy Alert Template

Areas with yellow highlighting require customization.

Tell Your Elected Officials How Important OAA is to You!

The federal Older Americans Act (OAA) funds critical services for older adults and their caregivers in [COMMUNITY], including [List some popular, well-known programs]. The current law expires at the end of September 2024. This means that Congress will update the Older Americans Act to ensure that these critical programs supporting older adults and caregivers continue in [COMMUNITY] and around the country!

How can you help? At [AGENCY], we are advocating for these programs alongside USAging, our national champion in Washington, DC, and working to ensure that federal lawmakers understand how important OAA is to their constituents. However, we need YOU to help make our voices stronger! **Please take a few moments to contact our elected officials to share your OAA story** and educate them about these vital OAA services help older adults and caregivers in your community.

How to Take Action:

Contact [Senators X and X and Representative(s) X (and X)] now to share your OAA story. You can use some of the sample language below in your outreach, but make sure to add details about the effect these programs have had on you and others in our community.

- **Put Your Requests in Writing.** If you can, put your requests in writing using the websites of our Senators and Representative(s): [insert URL(s) here]. Use the language below to craft your messages, but make sure to include your personal experiences about these programs. [Find contact information for our Senators and Representatives to include in your alert at www.senate.gov and www.house.gov.]

- **Reach Out on Social Media.** USAging advocates in DC have created some sample social media messages that you can use to contact **Senators X and X and Representative(s) X (and X)** on Facebook and/or X, formerly Twitter. Use **[insert social media handles for your Representatives and Senators]** to share your support for OAA and any short stories or pictures! Remember to keep your messages positive and respectful!
- **Make A Few Short Phone Calls.** If you'd rather call than write to our lawmakers (or both!), this is an easy way to share your opinions. Use the Capitol Switchboard (202.224.3121) to reach DC offices or look up the district office phone numbers on their websites.

Sample Script:

[IDENTIFY YOURSELF AS A CONSTITUENT AND SHARE ANY RELEVANT PERSONAL INFORMATION YOU FEEL COMFORTABLE SHARING. For example, "I live in the town of Fairmont with my husband who is living with Alzheimer's. I am his primary caregiver, but he also receives in-home services from the Older Americans Act which allows us to be able to stay in our home of 45 years."]

I am reaching out today to share with you how important the federal Older Americans Act is to me and to encourage you and your colleagues in Congress to work toward a bipartisan reauthorization of the Act before it expires in September.

Older Americans Act programs are critical to me and people like me in your state/district, and with growing numbers of older adults and more Americans living longer, we should be investing in these programs now! Older Americans Act programs are critical to me and people like me in your state/district, and with growing numbers of older adults and more Americans living longer, we should be investing in these programs now!

Please ensure that any OAA reauthorization bill adequately funds these vital aging programs, protects the local flexibility our community already has in delivering them, and makes needed investments in innovation to respond to the rapidly growing population of older adults and their caregivers. Thank you.



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