

Template Letter to Congress

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[DATE]

The Honorable [REP/SEN NAME]

[U.S. House of Representatives/U.S. Senate]

[Office Address]

Washington, DC

Dear [Representative/Senator NAME]:

On behalf of [AGENCY NAME] in [AGENCY LOCATION/STATE], we are writing in support of achieving a timely bipartisan reauthorization of the Older Americans Act (OAA), which expires at the end of September 2024.

The OAA is essential to the health and independence of millions of older adults and caregivers, including [ADD LOCAL STATISTIC] older adults and caregivers that [YOUR AGENCY NAME] serves in your district. We hope that you and your colleagues in Congress will support a thoughtful, bipartisan process to renew these vital aging and caregiver support programs.

As the local planning, development and coordination agency for OAA programs and services in our area, [AGENCY NAME] can be a resource to you on how the OAA works at the local level, as well the current needs of older adults and their family caregivers in our community.

In [YOUR COMMUNITY NAME] and across the country, we are serving a population that is aging faster than at any other point in history. We want to enable older adults to age with health and independence in their homes and communities, which is where they want to be, and support the family caregivers already doing the lion's share of long-term care provision in this country. To do so, Congress must reauthorize the OAA and expand access to these cost-effective, independence-supporting and much-needed programs and services.

[INSERT ANY COMPELLING STATISTICS YOU HAVE ABOUT AGING TRENDS IN YOUR COMMUNITY].

USAgging, of which [AGENCY] is a member, has released a policy brief for lawmakers, [*Recommendations for the Reauthorization of the Older Americans Act*](#), which includes policy recommendations informed by us and the broader national network of local Area Agencies on Aging and Title VI Native American Aging Programs. We are also happy to share this [fact sheet](#) about why the OAA is so important nationally and to share local stories and data about OAA programs that serve your constituents in [community].

It is essential that lawmakers understand and support wise federal investments in programs that allow older adults to continue living in their homes and communities and that support caregivers. In the interest of the older adults and caregivers who we serve and who you represent in [DISTRICT/STATE], we hope you will support, and urge your colleagues to support, a bipartisan reauthorization of the OAA.

Specifically, we look forward to working with you to achieve a reauthorization that adequately funds critical OAA programs, protects and expands the inherent local flexibility within the Act, expands nutrition program flexibility to meet the changing needs of the older Americans AAAs serve, authorizes a national resource center to help the Aging Network reduce social isolation and loneliness among older adults, and allows health and wellness programs to reach more older adults via emerging interventions, especially in rural areas.

Please feel free to reach out anytime to [INSERT CONTACT INFORMATION] on these or any aging issues of importance to you and your constituents.

Sincerely,

[NAME, affiliation, address, etc.]



Leaders in Aging Well at Home

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