

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

February 1, 2016

The Honorable Shaun Donovan
Director, Office of Management and Budget
725 17th Street NW
Washington, D.C. 20503

Dear Director Donovan:

We ask that the President's Fiscal Year 2017 budget provide strong support for Older Americans Act (OAA) programs.

For more than 50 years, OAA programs have delivered critical resources and services to millions of American seniors. These programs keep seniors healthy, active, and engaged in their communities—strengthening the social fabric of towns and cities across the country. These programs also provide unique support to hardworking Americans who serve as family caregivers, many of whom work full-time jobs in addition to their caretaking responsibilities.

By supporting older adults so that they can live independently, OAA programs have helped seniors and hardworking families avoid costlier care. And it is clear that programs that meet the needs of older adults in their homes and communities will become even more important as America's senior population increases substantially in future decades.

The recent White House Conference on Aging served as an important reminder of the value of programs that serve our nation's seniors and their family members. We specifically appreciate and share the sentiment outlined in the Conference on Aging's final report, which described the Administration's "continued commitment to older adults." Robust investment in programs that help older Americans every day, such as those authorized through the OAA, is one key feature of this shared commitment.

As leaders in Congress for programs that support America's seniors, we remain committed to working with our colleagues to reauthorize the OAA and place its programs on secure long-term footing. In the meantime, we encourage the Administration to request funding for OAA programs that reflects the growing demand placed on these programs and the remarkable benefits they offer to seniors, families, and communities.

We look forward to working with you and the Administration to give all older adults the chance to age with dignity. Thank you for your attention to this request.

Sincerely,



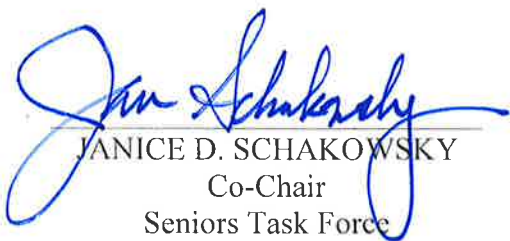
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Ranking Member
Committee on Education & the
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Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Higher
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