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THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT
Supporting independence, health and well-being for our nation’s seniors

OAA OVERVIEW
For more than 50 years, the Older Americans Act (OAA) has provided critical social and nutrition services for seniors age 60 and older as well as their caregivers. OAA services and supports allow our nation’s most vulnerable seniors to remain healthy and independent at home, out of hospitals and nursing homes. Some services include:

• Home-delivered meals and congregate meals served in group settings such as senior centers
• Transportation
• In-home personal care and community supports
• Caregiver assistance
• Evidence-based health and wellness programs
• Employment services and training
• Legal and protective services, including ombudsman protections in nursing homes

In 2015, nearly 11 million seniors received OAA services, including 222 million meals and 24 million rides.

THE ISSUE
An unprecedented demographic shift is occurring as the Baby Boomer generation ages. Compared with over 46 million seniors today, by 2030, 70 million people – 1 in 5 Americans – will be 65 or older. Millions of older Americans face economic and health challenges and rely on OAA services.

SENIORS 65+ AS A PERCENTAGE OF THE POPULATION WILL GROW FROM 15% IN 2014 TO 22% IN 2040.

The issue grows as the senior population is expected to grow, and great help is needed. It’s tough living on Social Security. After I pay my rent and storage for my belongings, there isn’t a lot of money to spend on groceries. Plus, I have to worry about my health. Transportation is one of the things I really need. I have no family here, they are far away. I have no friends here, they are far away.

Jack, Anaheim, CA

When my mom became 100 and needed to move in with me, I depended on the love and care she received at an adult day center in the neighborhood to help keep her at home and also allow me to continue working full-time. Without these services, I would have had to quit my job or find a nursing home placement for her.

- Autumn, Washington, DC

I am a 68-year-old woman living alone, and a recent stroke left me unable to do my daily activities. My local AAA assigned a personal aide who helped me with essentials such as laundry and bathing. Without this help, I would have to go to a nursing home.

- Carolyn Norton, OH

THE GROWING GAP BETWEEN SENIORS IN NEED AND SENIORS SERVED BY THE OAA
Despite the efficiencies and successes of the OAA, its funding has barely budged since 2004 and is rapidly shrinking relative to rising need. For example, a Government Accountability Office report found that about 83% of food insecure seniors and 83% of physically impaired seniors did not receive meals but likely needed them. This lack of adequate funding threatens programs and services that are critical to the health and economic well-being of older Americans.

Annual Medicare Expenditures

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<th>Year</th>
<th>Medicare Expenditures</th>
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<tr>
<td>2009</td>
<td>18 million seniors</td>
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<tr>
<td>2010</td>
<td>19 million seniors</td>
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<tr>
<td>2011</td>
<td>20 million seniors</td>
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<tr>
<td>2012</td>
<td>21 million seniors</td>
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For more details, visit www.lcao.org.

HERE’S WHAT CONGRESS CAN DO
OAA programs represent 1/20 of 1% of the entire federal budget. Given our nation’s demographic and economic realities, we must work to strengthen the health and financial security of older adults by:

1. Increasing funding for all OAA programs in FY 2019 and beyond
2. Ending sequestration and replacing it with a bipartisan budget plan