

OLDER AMERICANS ACT

KEEP THE ACT INTACT

Dear Congressman:

I am writing to share my concerns regarding the proposed changes to the Older Americans Act and potential cuts in funding for services essential to the 200,000 seniors in Ocean County. Under the Executive Branch's draft FY2026 HHS budget, the Older Americans Act programs and funding will be divided amongst two separate agencies, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid (CMS) and the Administration for Children & Family Services (ACF). The budget draft also outlines plans to zero out many critical aging programs including health promotion and disease prevention and elder rights efforts to prevent abuse, neglect and exploitation.

The Older Americans Act turns 60 this year and has been a tremendous success because of the coordination of services designed to assist older adults maintain their independence offering in-home services, transportation, meals on wheels, social engagement and much more. The proposed break up of the programs up will not only be less effective, but it will also drive costs up by increasing the administrative burden on federal, state and local aging agencies.

As a staunch advocate for older adults, we ask that you do all you can to ensure that federal administration of the OAA programs is consistent with the legislative intent of the law and that the act remains intact. The best way to accomplish this is to move OAA programs, formerly under the Administration for Community Living, to the Administration for Children & Family Services. Keeping them under one agency will ensure that the programs and services remain coordinated and designated to meet the needs of older adults. I also ask that you oppose any cuts to funding or elimination of critical services to older adults.

Thank You,

