



1201 15th Street NW
Suite 350
Washington, DC 20005
Phone 202-898-2578
Fax 202-898-2583
www.nasuad.org

3/7/2016

Chairman Thad Cochran
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Room S-128
Washington, D.C. 20510

Vice Chairwoman Barbara A. Mikulski
Senate Committee on Appropriations
Room S-128
Washington, D.C. 20510

Chairman Harold Rogers
House Committee on Appropriations
Room H-305
Washington, D.C. 20515

Ranking Member Nita M. Lowey
House Committee on Appropriations
Room H-305
Washington, D.C. 20515

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Dear Chairman Cochran, Chairman Rogers, Vice Chairwoman Mikulski, and Ranking Member Lowey:

On behalf of the National Association of States United for Aging and Disabilities (NASUAD), I am writing to request that you consider the needs of the growing senior population as you develop the FY2017 budget and appropriations packages. NASUAD represents the 56 officially designated state and territorial agencies on aging and disabilities. Each of our members oversees the implementation of the Older Americans Act (OAA), and many also serve as the operating agency in their state for Medicaid waivers that serve older adults and individuals with disabilities. Together with our members, we work to design, improve, and sustain state systems delivering home and community based services and supports for people who are older or have a disability and their caregivers.

The population of older adults has been increasing drastically over the decade, and is expected to continue for the foreseeable future. Approximately 10,000 Americans are estimated to turn 65 *every day* between 2011 and 2030.¹ This growing population continues to stress the nation's health and human services, and meeting the needs of senior citizens requires a combination of innovative approaches and targeted funding increases. We commend the investments Congress made in these services in the FY2016 appropriations, and encourage ongoing support for these crucial services.

¹ <http://www.pewresearch.org/daily-number/baby-boomers-retire/>

NASUAD proposes the following items for consideration in the FY2017 appropriations bills:

- Restore \$10 million of expired funding for Aging and Disability Resource centers;
- Increase aggregate funding for nutrition services within Title III of the Older Americans Act by at least \$10 million nationwide;
- Provide language directing the Administration for Community Living to remove current distinctions between home delivered meals and congregate meals in OAA, allowing meals to be individualized to meet the needs of beneficiaries; and
- Increase the funding for Elder Justice Activities by \$5 million to a total of \$13 million.

More detail about each of these proposals is available upon request. We appreciate the work you have done to support seniors and people with disabilities across the country, and look forward to continuing our collaboration to improve the lives of people across the country.

Please feel free to contact Damon Terzaghi of my staff at (202) 898-2578 if you have any questions.



Martha A. Roherty
Executive Director
NASUAD

