



May 20, 2013

The Honorable Bernard Sanders  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Primary Health and Aging  
Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions  
648 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Sanders:

On behalf of the National Council on Aging, I am pleased to share NCOA's endorsement of the Older Americans Act Amendments of 2013 and commend you for this important first step to spur a bipartisan, bicameral reauthorization process for the 113th Congress.

We appreciate your continued leadership to advance a very thoughtful reauthorization package that continues to recognize that the Act still provides a strong foundation for the Aging Services Network and its partners to empower older adults to retain or improve their health and economic independence so they can remain in their own homes and communities. The most significant reason why the Act has not yet fully realized its true potential has been a lack of investment, which your bill addresses through several Sense of the Senate statements.

Reauthorization of the OAA as increasing waves of Baby Boomers turn 65 is crucial to ensure that successes of the Act can be better leveraged, and innovation continues to be fostered to meet the needs of today's seniors. Proposals in your legislation that seize this opportunity include those which define economic security and significantly establish it as a goal of the Act, emphasize the delivery of evidence-based chronic disease self-management and falls prevention, promote senior center modernization, enhance the Senior Community Services Employment Program (SCSEP), and strengthen legal assistance and other elder justice provisions. Together, these improvements can empower seniors and improve their health and economic security, bend downward the long-term entitlements cost curve, and promote greater program efficiency and coordination.

We applaud your ongoing efforts to move OAA reauthorization forward, and we look forward to continuing to work with you to promote a bipartisan process that remains true to the history of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James P. Firman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

James P. Firman, Ed.D.  
President & CEO

# STRENGTHEN SOCIAL SECURITY

**...don't cut it.**

May 20, 2013

The Honorable Bernard Sanders  
United States Senate  
332 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Sanders,

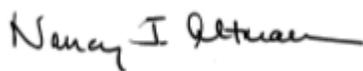
The Strengthen Social Security Coalition is comprised of over 350 national and statewide organizations, including labor, womens, aging, disability, veterans and civil rights groups, whose goal is to strengthen Social Security benefits for current and future beneficiaries. We are writing to express our unwavering support for the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act. This vital piece of legislation has created outlets of support for seniors to live in their communities with independence and dignity since 1965 when it was signed into law.

The Older Americans Act reauthorization directs the Bureau of Labor Statistics to create a more robust version of the Consumer Price Index for the elderly (CPI-E) which is a more accurate measure of costs for seniors. As compared to the rest of the population, the average senior disproportionately spends a substantially larger portion of their income on health care, heating, cooling and other housing costs. Adjusting the Cost of Living Adjustment (COLA) to reflect inflation based on the CPI-E would afford a more accurate Social Security benefit for thousands of seniors across America who currently only receive a modest income.

This reauthorization would strengthen the Older Americans Act by reauthorizing all programs through FY 2018 and requesting a 12 percent increase in appropriations from FY 2010 in order to address the needs of the baby boom generation. Updating the definitions of social and economic need to include outreach to LGBT individuals, veterans, and those with Alzheimer's disease is essential to providing quality assistance to a diverse and growing senior population. The reauthorization also introduces efforts to protect seniors from abuse and authorizes new grants to strengthen the environment of senior and caregiver supports around the country- including the creation of the National Resource Center on Family Caregiving.

The reauthorization of the Older Americans Act is critical to ensuring the wellbeing of seniors in the United States who are committed to living out their days in the comfort of their own communities. Your efforts to stand up as a voice for the aging population are celebrated among our coalition, and we thank you for your strong leadership.

Sincerely,



Nancy Altman  
Coalition Co-Chair



Eric Kingson  
Coalition Co-Chair



**National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs**

1612 K Street, NW Suite 400 Washington, DC 20006

(202) 682-6899 (202) 223-2099 fax

[www.nanasp.org](http://www.nanasp.org)

May 23, 2013

The Honorable Bernard Sanders  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Primary Health and Aging  
Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions  
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Sanders:

The National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs (NANASP) is pleased to support S.\_\_\_\_, the Older Americans Act (OAA) Amendments of 2013. Reauthorization of the OAA is vital to the health, well-being and independence of millions of seniors across the country.

NANASP is a 1,100-member national nonpartisan, nonprofit, membership organization for persons across the country working to provide older adults healthful food and nutrition through community-based services. Its members, as individuals, agencies and organizations, represent a diverse coalition of those interested in senior nutrition programs. We strongly believe in these programs and thank you for your support of them in the bill.

We feel that this bill is an excellent beginning to the work of reauthorizing the Older Americans Act and we look forward to continuing to work with you and the Subcommittee throughout the process. We appreciate your strong leadership and your dedication to seniors.

Sincerely,

Paul Downey  
President  
NANASP

Robert B. Blancato  
Executive Director  
NANASP



May 21, 2013

Senator Bernard Sanders, Chair  
Subcommittee on Primary Health and Aging  
Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee  
428 Senate Dirksen Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Sanders:

LeadingAge wants to thank you for your leadership in the process of re-authorizing the Older Americans Act (OAA). "*The OAA Amendments of 2013*" will be a major catalyst towards the passage of a Re-authorized Older Americans Act that will better serve older adults in our communities.

LeadingAge members and affiliates touch the lives of 4 million individuals, families, employees and volunteers every day. The LeadingAge community ([www.LeadingAge.org](http://www.LeadingAge.org)) includes 6,000 not-for-profit organizations in the United States, 39 state partners, hundreds of businesses, research partners, consumer organizations, foundations and a broad global network of aging services organizations that reach over 30 countries. The work of LeadingAge is focused on advocacy, education, and applied research. We promote adult day services, home health, hospice, community-based services, PACE, senior housing, assisted living residences, continuing care communities, nursing homes as well as technology solutions and person-centered practices that support the overall health and wellbeing of seniors, children, and those with special needs.

This important legislation increases the focus on preventing elder abuse. It provides \$5 million in funding for the Community Innovations for Aging in Place. This program over the years improved the collaboration between affordable senior housing and long-term services and supports through Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities. LeadingAge is also pleased to see that the bill helps Area Agencies on Aging and Aging and Disability Resource Centers continue to work closely with long-term services and support providers to improve care transitions for frail older adults.

We applaud you for your commitment to older Americans, and we look forward to working with you throughout this reauthorization process.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William L. Minnix, Jr.".

William L. Minnix, Jr.  
President and CEO



**National Association of State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs**

May 22, 2013

The Honorable Bernard Sanders, Chairman  
Senate Subcommittee on Primary Health and Aging  
United States Senate  
648 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Sanders:

The National Association of State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs (NASOP) is pleased to support your legislation, the Older Americans Act Amendments of 2013, which, among other things, would improve the capacity of State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs to advocate for residents of long-term care facilities.

As you are well aware, the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program (LTCOP) identifies, investigates and resolves complaints made by or on behalf of residents of long-term care facilities that affect their health, safety, welfare, or rights. Clarifying that residents have regular, timely, private and unimpeded access to LTCOP services strengthens residents' rights to assistance from our Program. Improving the ability of the LTCOP to access all records pertaining to residents and clarifying that the LTCOP is a Health Oversight Agency improves the LTCOP's ability to investigate and resolve resident complaints. Removing organizational conflicts of interest and clarifying the relationship between the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman and designated local entities ensures the independence of the LTCOP and strengthens the unity of statewide LTCOPs under the leadership of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman. Restoring maintenance of effort provisions that protect federal and state funding for the Program and increasing funding in Title VII will protect our ability to ensure regular and timely access to Ombudsman services. Authorizing Title III E National Family Caregiver Program funding to support the work of the LTCOP in helping establish and assist family councils in long-term care facilities, identifies an unmet need to support family caregivers who continue to care for loved ones.

We applaud your vision and efforts to improve the whole Act and especially your attention to the often-neglected long-term care system. NASOP enthusiastically supports your efforts and this important legislation that protects the rights of all residents of long-term care facilities. We look forward to working with you as the OAA reauthorization process moves ahead.

Sincerely,

Joseph Rodrigues  
President

Joseph Rodrigues, NASOP President  
Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman  
1300 National Drive, Suite 200  
Sacramento, CA 95834  
Phone (916) 419-7510 FAX (916) 928-2503  
E-mail: [jrodrigu@aging.ca.gov](mailto:jrodrigu@aging.ca.gov)  
[www.nasop.org](http://www.nasop.org)



William Lamb, President  
Sarah F. Wells, Executive Director  
Ph: 202.332.2275  
Fax: 866.230.9789  
[www.theconsumervoice.org](http://www.theconsumervoice.org)

May 22, 2013

The Honorable Bernie Sanders  
United States Senate  
332 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Sanders,

The National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care (Consumer Voice) commends you for the introduction of the *Older Americans Act Amendments of 2013*. We support this critical legislation, which is a much-needed first step towards reauthorizing essential *Older Americans Act* programs, and are particularly pleased that it includes provisions to protect the rights and well-being of elders living in long-term care facilities, as well as those at home and in the community.

As you are aware, residents of long-term care facilities need effective advocacy in order to ensure that they receive the quality of care and quality of life they deserve and are entitled to by law. The purpose of the Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program is to provide residents with access to such advocacy. The *Older Americans Act Amendments of 2013* would strengthen and improve this program's effectiveness in a number of important ways. This legislation would clarify both organizational and individual conflicts of interest within the program; clarify that the State Ombudsman is responsible for the management of the Office of the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman, including the office's fiscal management; improve resident access to ombudsmen; and ensure that State Ombudsmen receive ongoing training. It would also enhance the ability of the National Ombudsman Resource Center to train and support both state and local ombudsmen by increasing the Center's funding.

Furthermore, older adults receiving services and supports at home also deserve similar protections to ensure they are receiving high-quality care and a good quality of life. Yet these individuals have few, if any, rights and protections under current law. The *Older Americans Act Amendments of 2013* would guarantee home care consumers basic rights, including the right to safety, as well as information about costs, choice, and redress of grievances. The legislation would also advance the development of ombudsman advocacy for home care consumers, who are frequently just as frail and vulnerable as nursing home residents.

The Consumer Voice thanks you and your staff for the hard work and dedication that led to the introduction of the *Older Americans Act Amendments of 2013*. We look forward to continuing to work with your office in support of this vital bill during the coming months.

Sincerely,



Sarah Wells  
Executive Director



Robyn Grant  
Director of Public Policy & Advocacy

*The National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care (formerly NCCNHR) is a 501(c) (3) nonprofit membership organization founded in 1975 by Elma L. Holder that advocates for quality care and quality of life for consumers in all long-term-care settings.*



NATIONAL HISPANIC COUNCIL ON AGING

Yanira Cruz - President & CEO

*Working to improve  
the lives of Hispanic  
older adults and  
their families*

May 17, 2013

The Honorable Bernie Sanders  
332 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Sanders:

The National Hispanic Council on Aging (NHCOA) – the leading national organization working to improve the lives of Hispanic older adults, their families, and caregivers – is proud to endorse the *Older Americans Act (OAA) Amendments of 2013*. We applaud you for your efforts to strengthen the services and supports of the OAA and help make them available to all older adults. Hispanic seniors often struggle to access services that are available in their communities, but it is NHCOA's hope that your amendments will help them get the assistance they need to live independently and in the best possible health.

The population of older adults in the United States is growing quickly, and the OAA needs to reflect this changing demographic. NHCOA strongly supports the increased funding requested for the vitally important meals, transportation, caregiver support, and employment training that the OAA provides. For many years, parts of the OAA have gone without funding increases. The increased funding of the *OAA Amendments of 2013* will allow service providers to meet the increased demand created by the growing population of older adults.

NHCOA is also happy that the *OAA Amendments of 2013* place a priority on the delivery of services and supports in a culturally and linguistically appropriate manner. In addition to growing larger, the population of older adults in the U.S. is also become more diverse. Currently, cultural and linguistic barriers make it difficult for Hispanic older adults to access available services. *The OAA Amendments of 2013* help break down those barriers. Prioritizing services that meet the unique cultural and linguistic needs of older adults is a tremendous step forward for the OAA.

Thank you for leadership and for your support of older adults. NHCOA looks forward to working with you to further improve the lives of Hispanic older adults, their families, and caregivers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Yanira Cruz", is written over a thin horizontal line.

Yanira Cruz, Dr.PH  
President & CEO

May 22, 2013

The Honorable Bernard Sanders  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Primary Health and Aging  
Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions  
U.S. Senate, 648 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Sanders:

It is with great pleasure that I write in support of the Older Americans Act Reauthorization legislation that you are introducing this week. Please add the Women's Institute for a Secure Retirement (WISER) to your list of supporters. I truly appreciate all of your efforts to strengthen and expand the programs under the OAA in both this Congress and in the 112th Congress.

The importance of the Older Americans Act to millions of older adults should not be underestimated. The impact and influence of the OAA is felt far and wide but intimately, too, in the meals that seniors eat every day, and in the protections and assistance that individuals receive from the many and varied programs and services.

The programs of WISER and the National Education and Resource Center on Women and Retirement Planning are great examples of OAA programs that reach older adults in one of the most important ways possible: by protecting women from financial exploitation and poverty in their older years. As you know, the center, administered by WISER, plays a critical role in addressing financial literacy and predatory practices. Predatory practices cost Americans \$25 billion annually, robbing women, particularly elderly women, of precious assets and putting their home ownership at risk. The face of the victim is often a “cash poor, house rich” elderly widow, often African American, less-educated, and vulnerable. These are the individuals that make up WISER’s audience and the people to whom WISER focuses its outreach.

Being a target when you are at this vulnerable stage of your life has extreme consequences – being swindled out of your life savings is not only devastating but also life threatening. Older women are targeted not only by strangers who are con artists, unscrupulous salespeople, contractors or others, but by those who are known to them and who have power over them such as family caregivers or someone with a power of attorney or other fiduciary obligation. WISER has partnered with the National Adult Protective Services Association to develop education materials, training programs, and outreach to educate, recognize, and prevent elder financial exploitation.

In closing, let me again thank you for introducing this important piece of legislation that supports some of the most effective and essential programs that we offer older Americans. Please let me know how I may be of assistance during the upcoming legislative process.

Sincerely,



Cindy Hounsell  
President



SOCIAL SECURITY WORKS  
815 16<sup>th</sup> St., 4<sup>th</sup> Floor  
Washington, DC 20006  
SocialSecurityWorks.org

May 20, 2013

The Honorable Bernard Sanders  
United States Senate  
332 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Senator Sanders,

We are delighted to express our firm support for the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act. We are particularly pleased with the CPI-E provision, as discussed below. Since 1965, this Act has helped millions of seniors live with independence and dignity within their own homes and communities. The Older Americans Act created the primary organizing tool, the Administration on Aging, statewide Area Agencies on Aging, as well as programs like Meals on Wheels, and various volunteer services. These programs have allowed thousands of older adults the flexibility and autonomy in deciding the type of environment they would like to live in during their later years.

This reauthorization addresses the shortfalls of seniors' current economic security by directing the Bureau of Labor Statistics to create a more robust version of the Consumer Price Index for the Elderly (CPI-E) within a 2 year window. Current benefits are very modest. The current CPI does not adequately reflect seniors' disproportionately large housing and health care expenditures relative to other age groups. As a consequence, benefits erode over time. This CPI-E would create a more accurate measure of the true cost of living seniors experience, which would help alleviate some financial strain as they age.

The Older Americans Act reauthorization is vital to ensuring the wellbeing of the growing senior population in the United States. The coordinated systems of services enacted by this reauthorization would revitalize an essential piece of legislation in order to accommodate the needs of the growing senior population.

We applaud your continued leadership on the Older Americans Act, and we are honored to endorse this legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Nancy I. Altman".

Nancy Altman  
Coalition Co-Chair

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Eric R. Kingson".

Eric Kingson  
Coalition Co-Chair



National Academy of  
Elder Law Attorneys, Inc.

National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys, Inc • 1577 Spring Hill Road, Suite 220 • Vienna, VA 22182  
703-942-5711 • 703-563-9504 Fax • [www.NAELA.org](http://www.NAELA.org)

May 22, 2013

The Honorable Bernard Sanders, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Primary Health and Aging  
Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee  
United States Senate  
428 Senate Dirksen Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Sanders:

The National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys wishes to express its support for your bill, the *Older Americans Act Amendments of 2013*. We thank you and your staff for the many hours that you have spent listening to stakeholders from across the country, establishing goals for this reauthorization, and drafting the bill that you plan to introduce this week. This is an important step in what should be an open, bipartisan, and bicameral process of reauthorizing this important law.

In particular, we believe that your continuing commitment to strengthen the quality of and access to legal services for older adults is essential in this reauthorization. In addition, your provisions that recognize that the long-term care ombudsman program can be significantly improved by changes to the current law that will not demand any additional resources are greatly appreciated. Moreover, your bill adds important language consistent with the Elder Justice Act that will promote the fight against elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation on the federal, state, and local levels.

NAELA is a professional association consisting of more than 4,300 attorneys who advocate for the rights of seniors and people with disabilities. Elder law attorneys are specialized and trained in a variety of areas in the law that address an individual's long-term care needs. We thank you for including our perspectives in the process and your steadfast commitment to providing much needed services to older adults, particularly those in the greatest economic and social need.

Our members see clients every day who have benefited or could benefit from OAA programs, and we are strong supporters of its reauthorization in the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress. Please let us know what we can do to help you in this effort.

Sincerely,

Peter G. Wacht, CAE  
Executive Director

Gregory S. French, CELA, CAP  
President



May 21, 2013

**Michael D. Siegal**  
CHAIR, BOARD OF TRUSTEES

**Diane S. Feinberg**  
CHAIR, EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE

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NATIONAL CAMPAIGN CHAIR

**Gail Norry**  
CHAIR, NATIONAL WOMEN'S  
PHILANTHROPY

**Stephen J. Silverman**  
TREASURER

**Cynthia Shapira**  
SECRETARY

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**Richard N. Bernstein**  
CHAIR, UIA

**Gerrald B. Silverman**  
PRESIDENT/CEO

The Jewish Federations of North America (JFNA) and the Association of Jewish Family & Children's Agencies (AJFCA) are pleased to endorse the Older Americans Act reauthorization bill. We urge Senators to support this legislation and reauthorize the Older Americans Act with sufficient funding to meet the needs of seniors as soon as possible.

JFNA represents 154 Jewish Federations & over 300 independent Jewish communities. The Jewish Federations, collectively among the top 10 charities on the continent, protects and enhances the well-being of Jews worldwide through the values of tikkun olam (repairing the world), tzedakah (charity and social justice) and Torah (Jewish learning). AJFCA is the membership association for approximately 125 Jewish Family Service agencies across the United States and Canada. Ranging in size from small departments of local Jewish Federations to some of the largest human services agencies in North America, our members provide vital services to clients of all ages, faiths and economic backgrounds. They counsel families, feed the hungry, assist the elderly and protect the vulnerable. We are united by the values of our Jewish tradition and work together toward our common goal of *tikkun olam*, repairing the world.

Our network is comprised of experts in aging services for all seniors and we make up the primary social service providers for Holocaust survivors in the United States. As people who work with Holocaust survivors in their homes and in the community, we are reminded each day of the importance of enabling Holocaust survivors to remain safely at home with their communities. The negative effects of isolation can be devastating for survivors who also face financial challenges and fewer family members to help care for them. The ability to help provide that comfort and quality of life will be enhanced if the Responding to Urgent needs of Survivors of the Holocaust (RUSH) Act, which is incorporated into this reauthorization bill, were to become law.

We also strongly support efforts to provide congregational and home-delivered meals that are culturally appropriate based on religious or ethnic requirement or health-related concerns; funding of Title IV to help develop and carry out innovative demonstration projects that advance and sustain healthy, efficient, and independent community-based aging; strengthening the National Family Caregiver Support program; and funding for the Senior Community Service Employment Program; among other important initiatives supported by the Older Americans Act.

JFNA and AJFCA look forward to cooperating with members of the Senate to move reauthorization of the Older Americans Act forward. For additional information, please contact Shelley Rood at JFNA at [shelley.rood@jewishfederations.org](mailto:shelley.rood@jewishfederations.org) or (202) 736-5880.

Sincerely,

Association of Jewish Family & Children's Agencies  
The Jewish Federations of North America

1720 I Street, NW  
Washington, DC 20006-3736

Phone 202.785.5900

Fax 202.785.4937

[JewishFederations.org/washington](http://JewishFederations.org/washington)

[f jfederations](https://www.facebook.com/jfederations) [@jfederations](https://twitter.com/jfederations)

May 22, 2013

The Honorable Bernie Sanders  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Primary Health and Aging  
Senate Health, Education, Labor & Pensions Committee  
322 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Sanders,

On behalf of the 158 Goodwill Industries agencies in the United States, I am writing in support of proposed changes to Title V of the Older Americans Act contained in the Older Americans Act Amendments Act of 2013.

The Older Americans Act (OAA) was the first federal-level legislation aimed at providing comprehensive services for older adults. Since its original passage in 1964, tens of millions of seniors have benefited from the services provided by the OAA. Among those services are the employment services provided under Title V-Community Service Senior Opportunities Act, commonly referred to as the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP). SCSEP is a program administered by the United States Department of Labor's Employment and Training Administration that helps low-income people who are 55 and older to return to or remain active in the workforce. The recession that began in 2008 seriously hurt the standard of living for many seniors, moving many from middle-income to low-income brackets. At a time when our fragile economy continues to struggle to recover from the recession, the importance of the SCSEP program has never been greater.

The Older American Act Amendments of 2013 will require the Assistant Secretary for Aging and the Secretary of Labor to conduct a feasibility study and submit a report to Congress on the proposed transfer of the Senior Community Service Employment Program from the Department of Labor Employment and Training Administration to the Health and Human Services Administration on Aging. While Goodwill supports keeping the SCSEP program located within the Department of Labor, it also supports the study language that will be part of the proposed legislation. Goodwill believes such a study would provide greater clarity on Title V's interconnection with other Titles within OAA and provide Congress and the Administration with more data on how significant SCSEP's role is as a workforce development program for our nation's most at-risk seniors.

We appreciate your efforts on behalf of older Americans, especially in these difficult times. Please feel free to contact Paul Seifert, Senior Public Policy Specialist at [paul.seifert@goodwill.org](mailto:paul.seifert@goodwill.org) or at (240) 333-5478.

Sincerely,



Jim Gibbons, President & CEO  
Goodwill Industries International



May 22, 2013

The Honorable Bernie Sanders, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Primary Health & Aging  
Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions  
U.S. Senate  
332 Dirksen Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Sanders,

We are writing on behalf of the Eldercare Workforce Alliance (EWA), a coalition of 28 national organizations—representing consumers, family caregivers, the direct-care workforce, and health care professionals—joined together to address the immediate and future workforce crisis in caring for an aging America. We applaud your efforts to move forward with reauthorization of the Older Americans Act (OAA) in the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress. OAA reauthorization offers an important opportunity to help modernize the aging services network and its programs in order to build an eldercare workforce with the skills and training to meet the “whole person” needs of older adults for health care and long-term services and supports (LTSS).

EWA supports the *Older Americans Act Amendments of 2013*, particularly its provisions to support family caregivers and strengthen the eldercare workforce. Provisions in your legislation which contribute to these important goals include those that strengthen support for family caregivers through grants to states to conduct assessments of family or informal caregiver needs, enhance the work of Federal agencies to improve and develop new models for care coordination, test models that provide direct-care workers with additional training for new roles, and direct the Administration on Aging to work with other federal agencies to identify and address eldercare workforce shortages.

The Eldercare Workforce Alliance looks forward to continued engagement in the OAA reauthorization process. Our nation faces a severe and growing shortage of eldercare providers with the skills and training to meet the unique health care needs of older adults. The Alliance is committed to supporting the reauthorization of the OAA as it invests in building and maintaining an eldercare workforce that supports well-coordinated, high-quality care for older adults.

Sincerely,

Nancy Lundebjerg, MPA  
EWA Co-Convener  
212-308-1414  
[nlundebjerg@americangeriatrics.org](mailto:nlundebjerg@americangeriatrics.org)

Michèle J. Saunders, DMD, MS, MPH  
EWA Co-Convener  
210-567-7439  
[saunders@uthscsa.edu](mailto:saunders@uthscsa.edu)

The Eldercare Workforce Alliance is a project of The Advocacy Fund.

*The positions of the Eldercare Workforce Alliance reflect a consensus of 75 percent or more of its members, and do not necessarily represent the position of individual Alliance member organizations.*

## THE ELDER JUSTICE COALITION

A NATIONAL ADVOCACY VOICE FOR ELDER JUSTICE IN AMERICA  
JOHN B. BREAU, HONORARY CHAIR ♦ ROBERT B. BLANCATO, NATIONAL COORDINATOR

May 23, 2013

The Honorable Bernard Sanders  
Chairman, Subcommittee on Primary Health and Aging  
Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions  
U.S. Senate  
428 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Sanders:

The Elder Justice Coalition (EJC) is pleased to support The Older Americans Act Amendments of 2013. We sincerely appreciate the efforts you and your staff have made to address the issue of elder abuse, neglect and exploitation in your bill.

In particular, we want to congratulate you on adding victims of elder abuse to the category of those who are in "greatest social need." This is very important because older adults who have been physically or financially abused or exploited are particularly vulnerable individuals in our society and they deserve the highest level of protection we can afford them. In addition, your bill helps to make consistent the approach and definitions used in the Elder Justice Act, and your bill makes permanent the National Resource Center for Women and Retirement and the National Adult Protective Services Resource Center. Further, your support for the State Home Care Ombudsman Program as well as your support for the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Program is greatly appreciated.

We feel that this bill is an excellent beginning to the work of reauthorizing the Older Americans Act and we look forward to continuing to work with you and the Subcommittee throughout the process. We appreciate your strong leadership and your dedication to the prevention of elder abuse and to the causes of older Americans.

Sincerely,



Robert B. Blancato  
National Coordinator  
Elder Justice Coalition

# SIBLING88 LEADERSHIP NETWORK

May 20, 2013

Ms. Sophie Kasimow  
Staff Director  
HELP Subcommittee on Primary Health & Aging

Ms. Kasimow,

On behalf of the Sibling Leadership Network (SLN), we write in support of the Older Americans Act reauthorization bill, which extends the scope of the National Family Caregiver Support Program to include older relative caregivers of adults with disabilities. We thank Chairman Sanders for his leadership in setting the groundwork for reauthorization and introducing draft legislation in the Senate.

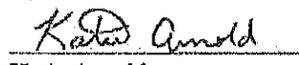
As a nonprofit organization that supports the relationship between individuals with disabilities and their caregiver siblings, we recognize the value of expanding family support legislation to cover more diverse roles that, in the past, have been consistently overlooked. The proposed reauthorization, by amending the core functions of the Aging and Disability Resources Centers to assist aging caregivers and adults with disabilities with future planning, assures additional supports are in place to strengthen the caregiver role.

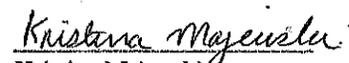
The SLN is a national nonprofit with state chapters dedicated to providing siblings of individuals with disabilities the information, support, and tools to advocate with their brothers and sisters and to promote the issues important to them and their entire families. For more information visit [www.siblingleadership.org](http://www.siblingleadership.org).

Thank you again for your commitment to supporting family caregivers. We look forward to our continued work together in helping to shape the future of family caregiver support programs and services.

Respectfully,

  
Shea Tanis  
Chair

  
Katie Arnold  
Executive Director

  
Kristina Majewski  
Policy and Advocacy Chair



Commemorating 40 Years  
Of Disability Advocacy  
1973-2013

May 22, 2013

The Honorable Bernie Sanders  
Chair, Subcommittee on Primary Health and Aging  
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
428 Senate Dirksen Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Sanders:

Thank you for your Older Americans Act reauthorization bill and its many improvements to help aging parents caring for their adult children with disabilities. The Developmental Disabilities, Autism and Family Support Task Force of the Consortium for Citizens with Disabilities (CCD) greatly appreciates the proposed amendments to the National Family Caregiver Support program (NFCSP) and the Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ARDCs).

The NFCSP was the first federal program to recognize the needs of the nation's family caregivers who provide the vast majority of long-term services and supports. NFCSP not only funds respite, but individual counseling, support groups, and caregiver training for family caregivers, primarily for those who are caring for the aging population. Unfortunately, the NFCSP currently is only available to caregivers of persons age 60 and over. Your bill would make the program available to the increasing number of Americans who need it by including caregivers of their adult children (age 19 to 59) with disabilities. This needed improvement would not come a moment too soon.

There are over 730,000 caregivers of persons with intellectual and developmental disabilities who are over the age of 60 and this number is projected to grow substantially with the aging of the baby boom generation. People with intellectual and developmental disabilities are also living longer due to medical advances. As parents of these individuals age, they will require more support to be able to continue providing care to their adult children and avoiding costly and unwanted institutional placement.

The aging of the caregiver population is central to another welcome provision in the bill – the addition of ADRCS assisting aging caregivers and adults with disabilities with future planning. The lack of family future planning often results in inappropriate residential placements, loss of intended inheritance, and jeopardizes access to needed services for adults with disabilities as they age. For instance, long waiting lists preclude appropriate community-based residential options for many individuals with lifelong disabilities. Providing future planning services will provide immense relief to aging caregivers who frequently report that they are “afraid to die.”

More than at any other time, when Medicaid, Medicare, and Social Security are being severely threatened, helping family caregivers to continue providing long-term services and supports is good public policy. We look forward to working with you on the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act that will improve services for our nation's caregivers.

CCD is a coalition of national disability organizations working together to advocate for national public policy that ensures the self-determination, independence, empowerment, integration and inclusion of children and adults with disabilities in all aspects of society.

For more information, please contact any of the following Task Force Co-Chairs:

Kim Musheno, Association of University Centers on Disabilities	<a href="mailto:kmusheno@aucd.org">kmusheno@aucd.org</a>	301-588-8252
Annie Acosta, The Arc	<a href="mailto:acosta@thearc.org">acosta@thearc.org</a>	202-783-2229
Cindy Smith, National Disability Rights Network	<a href="mailto:cindy.smith@ndrn.org">cindy.smith@ndrn.org</a>	202-408-9514
Peggy Hathaway, National Association of Councils on Developmental Disabilities	<a href="mailto:phathaway@nacdd.org">phathaway@nacdd.org</a>	202-506-5813
Jill Kagan, ARCH National Respite Network and Resource Center	<a href="mailto:jbkagan@verizon.net">jbkagan@verizon.net</a>	703-256-2084



**NADONALTC**  
NATIONAL ASSOCIATION DIRECTORS OF NURSING ADMINISTRATION/LONG TERM CARE

May 21, 2013

The Honorable Bernard Sanders, Chairman  
Retirement and Aging Subcommittee  
Health, Education, Labor and Pensions Committee  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Sanders:

On behalf of the millions of members and supporters of the National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare, I am writing to thank you for introducing the Older Americans Act Amendments of 2011, which reauthorizes the Older Americans Act (OAA). We share your hope that this legislation and other proposals to strengthen the OAA will receive bipartisan support in Congress early in 2012. Older Americans Act programs – such as in-home assistance, home-delivered and congregate meals, respite for family caregivers, preventive health services, job training and placement, and legal services - benefit individuals and their families. By helping seniors stay as independent as possible in their homes and communities, these programs also save federal and state government resources from being spent on sometimes unnecessary and often much more expensive care in hospitals and nursing homes. We understand that your legislation improves the OAA programs. In addition, your bill acknowledges that there is simply not enough money allocated for OAA programs to meet the needs of our growing elderly population.

The National Committee also applauds you for the provision in the Older Americans Act Amendments of 2011 which requires the Secretary of Labor to revise and improve the experimental price index for the elderly, commonly referred to as the CPI-E, so that it can be considered as a replacement for the consumer price index that is being used to adjust Social Security benefits for inflation. We believe that the CPI-E is based on a market basket of goods that more accurately reflects the spending patterns of the elderly and thus is a better index for the purpose of protecting seniors from the harmful effects of inflation. Revising and improving the experimental CPI-E is an essential first step in its adoption as the CPI of record for the Social Security program.

Thank you for your leadership on the Older Americans Act reauthorization. We look forward to working with you to strengthen these important programs that go a long way toward ensuring economic security and independence for older Americans and their family caregivers.

Sincerely,

*Sherrie Dornberger*

Sherrie Dornberger, RN, CDONA, CDP, GDCN, FACDONA

Executive Director NADONA/LTC

11353 Reed Hartman Hwy., Suite 210

Cincinnati, OH. 45241

May 22, 2013

To: Sophie Kasimow, Staff Director, HELP Subcommittee on Primary Health & Aging

From: Lisa Pugh, Public Policy Coordinator, Wisconsin's Disability Policy Partnership

Re: Older Americans Act reauthorization bill

I am writing to indicate our agency's support for the Older Americans Act reauthorization bill to be introduced by Senator Sanders. Our agency had previously worked with Senator Kohl's office on many of these important issues. This bill includes an important fix to the National Family Caregiver Support Program to include older relative caregivers of adults with disabilities. It also amends the core functions of ADRCs to include that they assist aging caregivers and adults with disabilities with future planning. The language on caregiver assessments will also be extremely helpful for aging caregivers of adults with disabilities.

Thank you for your work on this bill. We look forward to providing additional input and supporting its passage.

cc: Senator Baldwin staff  
Billy Gendell, Senate HELP Committee



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Rochester, MN

**Executive Director**

Christopher E. Laxton, CAE

May 21, 2013

The Honorable Bernie Sanders, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Primary Health & Aging  
Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions  
U.S. Senate  
332 Dirksen Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Sanders,

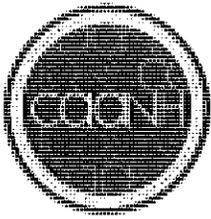
AMDA-Dedicated to Long Term Care Medicine applauds your efforts to move forward with reauthorization of the Older Americans Act (OAA) in the 113<sup>th</sup> Congress. AMDA is the professional association of nursing home medical directors, nursing home attending physicians, and other professionals practicing in the post-acute and long term care continuum. We work to ensure excellence in patient care and to promote the delivery of quality post-acute and long term care medicine.

AMDA supports the *Older Americans Act Amendments of 2013*, particularly its provisions to strengthen the eldercare workforce and continue funding the long term care ombudsman program. Provisions in your legislation which contribute to these important goals include those that strengthen support for family and informal caregivers through grants to states to conduct assessments of family or informal caregiver needs, test new innovative models of person and family-centered care that encourage well-coordinated, interdisciplinary team care, test models that provide direct-care workers with additional training for new roles, and direct the Administration on Aging to work with other federal agencies to identify and address eldercare workforce shortages. Also included is support for the Long Term Care Ombudsman Program, which addresses the many and varied problems facing long term care residents. State Ombudsmen play an important role in protecting nursing home residents, especially in promoting the development of citizen organizations and family residence councils.

AMDA looks forward to continued engagement in the OAA reauthorization process. Our nation faces a severe and growing shortage of eldercare providers with the skills and training to meet the unique health care needs of older adults. AMDA is committed to supporting the reauthorization of the OAA as it invests in building and maintaining an eldercare workforce that supports well-coordinated, high quality care for older adults.

Sincerely,

Christopher Laxton, CAE  
Executive Director



Community Action Agency of New Haven, Inc.  
419 Whalley Avenue  
New Haven, CT 06511  
Phone: 203-387-7700  
Fax: 203-397-7475  
[www.caanh.net](http://www.caanh.net)

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May 21, 2013

The Honorable Bernard Sanders  
332 Dirksen Senate Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Sanders:

On behalf of the Community Action Agency of New Haven (CAANH) we are pleased to share CAANH's endorsement of the Older Americans Act (OAA) Amendments of 2012.

Your legislation to reauthorize the OAA recognizes that the Act continues to provide a strong foundation for the Aging Services Network and its partners to empower older adults to retain or improve their health and economic independence so they can remain in their homes and communities.

We applaud your sage and dedicated efforts to address the reasons this bill has not reached its true potential, and your steps to remedy this.

We are grateful for your leadership on OAA reauthorization, particularly your ongoing efforts to continue the bipartisan history of this process. We look forward to continuing to work with you to enhance the Act's potential to promote economic security, strengthen the voice of seniors and those who serve them, and expand aging services research and demonstration efforts.

Many thanks for your good work.

Sincerely,

Amos L. Smith  
President and CEO

The Community Action Agency of New Haven offers pathways to prosperity to those in poverty in the Greater New Haven area through:

◆ Service      ◆ Collaboration      ◆ Advocacy      ◆ Knowledge Generation



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May 21, 2013

The Honorable Bernie Sanders  
United States Senate  
332 Dirksen Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Sanders:

We are writing to extend our most grateful thanks to you for writing and introducing the reauthorization of The Older Americans Act.

Donated Dental Services (DDS) is a national initiative sponsored by our organization which is affiliated with the American Dental Association. We provide comprehensive pro bono dental care through a network of more than 15,000 volunteer dentists assisted by 3,200 participating laboratories. The program is overwhelmed by requests for assistance from individuals who require dental care to address their medical needs for conditions such as diabetes, cancers, cardiovascular diseases, renal dysfunction, autoimmune diseases, and mental health challenges. They cannot afford the dental care and have no insurance for it.

Many more dentists are willing to participate in the DDS program and similar charitable service initiatives. However, they will not be effectively engaged without the social work infrastructure such projects require to match needy patients with available dental volunteers. The provision in the Reauthorization of the Older Americans Act authorizing support for that purpose will mobilize the dental profession's service potential to produce significant treatment for many very vulnerable individuals. And because of the eligibility focus on needy elderly, disabled, and medically compromised individuals, many of whom are Medicare and/or Medicaid beneficiaries, this process will likely save more money than it costs, since costly medical complications will undoubtedly be prevented.

Again, we re extremely appreciative of all your continuing efforts to improve services to our nation's elderly and disabled members, and we're eager to assist you in any way we can in helping to bring your efforts to fruition.

Respectfully,

Bruce Vladeck, Ph.D.  
Board Member

Larry Coffee, DDS  
Founder and CEO

May 22, 2013

The Honorable Bernie Sanders  
Chairman  
Primary Health and Aging Subcommittee  
SD- 648 Dirksen Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Sanders:

On behalf of our 156,000 members, we thank you for including important oral health provisions in 2013 the Older Americans Act (OAA) reauthorization. We believe that these additions are important for increasing access to needed oral health care for senior citizens.

Sec. 425 in the bill provides for a grant program that will support national dental programs to coordinate medically recommended dental care for low income individuals. The dental care will be provided by volunteer dentists at no cost to patients who have medical conditions – like diabetes, cancer, autoimmune disease, kidney disease or need heart or joint replacements or transplants.

This legislation is needed because Medicare, which does not cover routine dental services, will not pay for the coordination of medically recommended dental care, thereby preventing many underserved patients from getting needed care or compromising an existing chronic condition.

This program will reduce Medicare and Medicaid costs. For example, kidney dialysis patients need to be able to consume enough protein to stabilize their condition. If a patient cannot eat properly, physicians have to insert a feeding tube. A 2001 study reported that the estimated one year cost of feeding a patient through a tube is \$31,832. Under this bill, a patient in this condition would receive free oral health services from a volunteer dentist and avoid the need of a feeding tube.

It has been estimated that the \$2 million grant investment authorized in this bill will return roughly \$13 million in medically-necessary, pro bono dental treatment and will help 5,000 Medicare and/or Medicaid beneficiaries.

We are also pleased that you have included dental expenses in Sec. 209 of the bill, which requires the Secretary of Labor to revise the Experimental Price Index for the Elderly commonly referred to as the CPI-E. Adults increasingly are keeping their teeth well into old age, placing increasing demands for services on the dental profession as well as incurring more expense as consumers. Dental care is paid for much differently than most medical care; therefore indexing dental expenditures will be helpful in understanding the impact of these expenses on the elderly. We anticipate that the greater number of elderly individuals requiring dental care will change the way dentistry is practiced in the future. Including dental

May 22, 2013  
Page 2

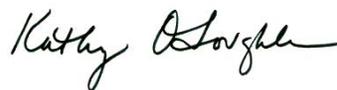
expenses in the CPI-E will help the dental profession better understand the impact of those expenditures.

Thank you again for including these oral health provisions in the Older American Act reauthorization. This is the first time in the history of the OAA that oral health care has been included.

Sincerely,



Robert A. Faiella, D.M.D., M.M.Sc.  
President



Kathleen T. O'Loughlin, D.M.D., M.P.H.  
Executive Director



May 22, 2013

The Honorable Bernie Sanders  
Chair, Subcommittee on Primary Health and Aging  
Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions  
428 Senate Dirksen Office Building  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Sanders:

On behalf of The Arc of the United States, I wish to express my sincere appreciation for your Older Americans Act reauthorization bill. This legislation offers significant improvements for our nation's family caregivers who provide the vast majority of long term services and supports.

For more than 60 years, The Arc has worked to ensure that people with intellectual and developmental disabilities have the supports and services they need to live as independently and productively as possible. Through our network of over 700 state and local chapters and 140,000 members, we have helped to create basic protections and opportunities for the more than 7 million people with intellectual and developmental disabilities in the U.S.

More than 65 million Americans provide care for a loved one who has a disability, is chronically ill, or is elderly and spend an average of 20 hours per week providing care. For caregivers of people with intellectual and developmental disabilities (I/DD) the levels of responsibility are not only greater, but frequently lifelong.

There are approximately 2.9 million family caregivers of persons with I/DD in the U.S. According to The Arc's Family and Individual Needs for Disability Supports (FINDS) survey, most of these family caregivers provide more than 40 hours of care per week (including 40% who provide more than 80 hours of care per week). As our society continues to depend on the active engagement of family caregivers for the support of individuals with I/DD, it is essential to meet the needs of those caregivers to continue providing care in the community instead of more costly and unwanted institutions.

Family caregivers of people with I/DD urgently need the services provided by the National Family Caregiver Support program (NFCSP) created by the Older Americans Act. Your legislation would finally make the NFCSP available to the majority of them who have been excluded from the program - caregivers of persons with I/DD who are age 18 to 59. As a result, many more families will be able to access essential respite, counseling, training, support group, and other services that help them to keep their loved ones at home.

In addition, the legislation would greatly help the growing number of aging caregivers to help plan for the future of their adult children with disabilities. Over 75% of adults with lifelong

disabilities live at home with family caregivers and more than a quarter live with aging caregivers over 60 years of age. By expanding the role of Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs) to begin providing future planning services, many aging caregivers will be able to achieve the peace of mind that they deserve. Planning for the future when aging caregivers can no longer provide care involves specific legal and financial considerations - such as special needs trusts, guardianship, and less restrictive protections - as well as future residential and lifestyle preferences. Access to these planning services will reduce the likelihood of inappropriate residential placements, loss of intended inheritance, and limited access to needed services for their adult children with disabilities.

Helping family caregivers to continue providing long-term services and supports is a matter of ethical and fiscal responsibility. We look forward to working with you on the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act that will improve services for our nation's caregivers.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script, appearing to read "Annie Acosta".

Annie Acosta  
Policy Advocate  
The Arc of the United States



May 23, 2013

The Honorable Bernie Sanders, Chairman  
Subcommittee on Primary Health & Aging  
Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions  
U.S. Senate  
332 Dirksen Building  
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Chairman Sanders:

The American Geriatrics Society (AGS) supports the Older Americans Act Amendments of 2013. AGS is a national non-profit organization comprised of over 6,000 health professionals, including physicians, nurses, researchers, medical educators, pharmacists, physician assistants, social workers, health care administrators, and others who specialize in geriatrics. We are the nation's largest multi-disciplinary health professional organization dedicated to improving the health, independence and quality of life of older people through initiatives in clinical practice, research and professional and public education.

We very much appreciate your efforts to move forward with reauthorization of the Older Americans Act (OAA) in the 113th Congress. Reauthorization of the OAA provides an important opportunity to modernize the aging services network and its programs in order to build a health professional workforce with the skills and training to meet the health and long-term care services and supports (LTSS) needs of older adults. As you know, our nation already faces a severe and growing shortage of healthcare professionals with the training and skills to meet the unique health care needs of older adults.

We are pleased to see provisions in the Older Americans Act Amendments of 2013 to address workforce shortages and support family caregivers. Several provisions in your legislation contribute to these important goals, including requiring the Administration on Aging to work with other federal agencies to identify and address workforce shortages in the field of aging. The bill also tests new innovative models of person and family-centered care that encourage well-coordinated, interdisciplinary team care. Additional components provide grants to states to conduct assessments of family or informal caregiver needs as well as the testing of models that provide direct care workers with further training for new roles.

Chairman Sanders, AGS appreciates your leadership on this important legislation and looks forward to continued engagement in the OAA reauthorization process. Should you have any additional questions, please contact Alanna Goldstein, Assistant Director of Public Affairs and Advocacy, at [agoldstein@americangeriatrics.org](mailto:agoldstein@americangeriatrics.org) or 212-308-1414.

Sincerely,

**Cathy Alessi, MD, AGSF**  
President

**Jennie Chin Hansen, RN, MS, FAAN**  
Chief Executive Officer