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**[Grassroots Template: Customize for what works best for your agency. You can remove the n4a header/references and change up the language…or not!]**

**Urge Members of Congress to Support Funding for Local Aging Programs**

**April 22, 2019**

Both the House and the Senate are considering their FY 2020 funding proposals for Older Americans Act (OAA) and other aging programs, which means now is the perfect time for local aging advocates in [COMMUNITY] to contact our Representatives and Senators to advocate for the highest possible funding levels for OAA and other critical aging programs.

There are a few key messages about this year’s federal funding proposals for local aging programs that we hope you will take to local lawmakers. We want lawmakers to increase critical Older Americans Act Title III B Supportive Services and III E Family Caregiver Supports, which fund [INSERT SOME LOCAL SERVICES THAT III B SUPPORTS] in [COMMUNITY]!

**How do we do that?** At [AGENCY], we are advocating for these programs alongside our national champions in Washington, DC. However, we need YOU to make our voices be better heard by lawmakers! **We hope you will consider taking the following steps in support of Older Americans Act funding!**

**How to Take Action:**

**Contact [Senators X and X and Representative(s) X (and X)] now to advocate for funding for Older Americans Act programs and services.** You can use some of the sample language below in your outreach, but make sure to fill in details about the effect these programs have had on you and others in our community.

* **Put Your Requests in Writing.**

If you can, put your requests in writing via our Senators and Representative(s) websites: [insert website(s) here]. Use the language below to craft your messages, but make sure to include your personal experiences about these programs. [You can find contact information for our Senators and Representatives to include in your alert at [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov) and [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov).]

**AND/OR**

* **Make A Few Short Phone Calls.**

If you’d rather call than write our lawmakers (or do both!), this is an easy way to be heard! Use the Capitol Switchboard (202.224.3121) to reach DC offices, or look up the district phone numbers on their websites.

***(NOTE: Senators X and X and Representative(s) X (and X) will be in [STATE] and [COMMUNITY] May 27-31 for the Memorial Day recess, so it’s a great time to reach out locally [OR ADD ANY INFORMATION ABOUT A LOCAL TOWN HALL OR EVENT THAT ADVOCATES CAN ATTEND IF RELEVANT.])***

**Sample Script:**

[IDENTIFY YOURSELF AS A CONSTITUENT AND SHARE ANY RELEVANT PERSONAL INFORMATION YOU FEEL COMFORTABLE SHARING. For example, “I live in the town of Fairmont with my husband who is living with Alzheimer’s. I am his primary caregiver, but he also receives in-home services from the Older Americans Act which allows us to be able to stay in our home of 45 years.”]

I am reaching out today regarding funding for the Older Americans Act and other aging programs lawmakers will consider as they develop their FY 2020 federal funding bills. I urge Congress to swiftly adopt a bipartisan, long-term funding bill that:

* Increases Older Americans Act Title III B Supportive Services, which provides critical in-home help to older adults who would otherwise not be able to remain living independently and increases funding for Title III E Family Caregiver Support Services.
* [Add any other priority areas that are critical in your area if you wish, for example: *Continue to protect and fully fund the federal State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP), senior workforce development programs and elder justice programs, etc.…*]

Older Americans Act programs are critical to me and people like me in your state/district, and with more Americans living longer, we should be investing in these programs now!!

Please ensure that any final funding bill preserves increases for and rejects cuts to Older Americans Act and other critical aging programs. Thank you.

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**For more information,** contact AGENCY INFO or the National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) in Washington, DC: [www.n4a.org](http://www.n4a.org), 202.872.0888.