



**Unified Declaration by Leading Organizations AARP, ADvancing States, American Society on Aging (ASA), Generations United, Grantmakers In Aging (GIA), Grantmakers In Health (GIH), Meals on Wheels America, the National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs (NANASP), the National Council on Aging (NCOA) and USAging to the United States Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions (Senate HELP Committee) Urging Swift, Bipartisan Reauthorization of the Older Americans Act (OAA).**

April 22, 2024

The Honorable Bernie Sanders  
Chair  
Committee on Health, Education,  
Labor and Pensions  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bill Cassidy, MD  
Ranking Member  
Committee on Health,  
Education, Labor, and Pensions  
United States Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Chairman Sanders and Ranking Member Cassidy:

The organizations listed above are writing to express our support for your efforts to convene a timely, bipartisan reauthorization of the Older Americans Act (OAA).

As the OAA is poised to reach its 60<sup>th</sup> year in 2025, it is more important than ever to protect and strengthen the law. OAA reauthorization is key to ensuring a network of national, state, tribal, local, and community-based organizations that can plan for and implement programming to ensure all older adults, especially the most vulnerable, can age well with health, independence, dignity, and economic security, as well as address the needs of family caregivers.

The OAA must be updated to address the needs of a rapidly growing and increasingly diverse population of older adults. It must support innovation and community-tailored solutions, promote public-private partnerships, and strengthen existing aging services, including in-home services, case management, information and referral/assistance, transportation, nutrition and socialization programs, senior centers, intergenerational programs, caregiver support, healthy aging, elder rights, and economic security.

More than 4 million Americans will turn 65 every year through 2027—outpacing all other generations. Increased investments are desperately needed to ensure the continued success of the statute, and the Aging Services Network that implements it. Funding must meet the needs of older adults and their caregivers in communities across the nation. We urge you to authorize increased funding for these critical programs at the highest possible levels to ensure that all older people can thrive.

All older Americans deserve a robust OAA that enables them to live in their own homes and communities with health, independence, and dignity. We stand ready to work with you to achieve these goals.