



Dane County Department of Human Services Area Agency on Aging of Dane County

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Dear **[Representative or Senator NAME]**:

On behalf of the Area Agency on Aging of Dane County WI, am writing to you to share grave concerns regarding President Trump's draft FY 2026 HHS budget because it includes **major threats** to the ability of older adults to age well at home and safely in the community.

First, the proposed 2026 budget bill as drafted for Health and Human Services (HHS) will dismantle and destroy the integration of the cost-effective aging programs and services under the Older Americans Act (OAA). These programs offered by our agency as well as the other 613 Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) serve millions of older Americans and their caregivers around the country and the division of such programs are contrary to the Law enacted by Congress when establishing the Older American's Act.

Specifically, The President's draft budget proposes to split OAA programs into two different HHS agencies, the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) and the Administration for Children and Families (ACF). Splitting up OAA programs into two different federal agencies undermines the facts that the different titles and subtitles programs are all part of ONE delivery system established by Congress in the Act: the Aging Network, with leadership at federal, state and local levels; and that the Act works so well because of that cohesive approach, allowing AAAs to provide a wide range of person-centered services to meet the needs of older adults and caregivers as efficiently as possible. The OAA turns 60 this year and has been a tremendous success by offering healthy aging, in-home supports, transportation, nutrition, case management, social engagement, caregiver support and many other services.

Secondly, the budget draft also outlined plans to zero out many critical aging programs that support the older adults in Dane County such as OAA's evidence-based health promotion, falls prevention, and disease prevention programs (Title III D) and elder rights (Title VII) efforts to prevent elder abuse and neglect, among others.

If the proposed breakup of the programs and the elimination of major initiatives in the OAA goes forward, it will severely impact the ability of older adults and caregivers in Dane County to get the services and supports they need to remain living at home and in the community versus facing placement in institutional settings, as well as drive cost inefficiencies through unnecessary and wasteful administrative burden on federal, state and local aging agencies.

Please do all you possibly can to ensure that federal administration of OAA programs follows the law, and the OAA programs that were formerly at the Administration for Community Living are moved intact to Administration for Children and Families (ACF).

I also ask for your support to prevent the elimination of critical services to older adults in Dane County and across the State of Wisconsin in the FY 2026 appropriations bill that are included in the Older American's Act or through other funding sources. In addition to the Programs eliminated in the Older American Act, State Health Insurance Programs, Aging and Disability Resource Centers, Low-income Heating Assistance Programs, Life Span Respite Care, Social Services Block Grant, and Ameri-Corp-Senior Corp Programs are also zeroed out for funding entirely.

I look forward to your reply and your assistance on this matter. I am happy to discuss these concerns with you or your staff at any time and will be following up.

Sincerely,

[NAME, affiliation, address, etc.]