

GWAAR Digest
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Older Americans Act Reauthorization

In 2025, the Older Americans Act (OAA) will celebrate its 60th anniversary! The OAA is currently reauthorized through Sept. 30, 2024. A strong OAA reauthorization is key to ensuring a network of national, state, tribal, and community-based organizations can plan for and implement programming that aims to ensure all older adults, especially the most vulnerable, can age well with health and economic security.

The Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor and Pensions (HELP), of which U.S. Senator Tammy Baldwin is a member, is overseeing the 2024 reauthorization of the OAA. The HELP committee held a hearing on Thursday, March 7. You can view the hearing [here \(Senate HELP Committee hearing\)](#). Last week, the Senate Special Committee on Aging also held a hearing on OAA Reauthorization. You can view that hearing [here \(Senate Aging Committee hearing\)](#).

House and Senate members are in their home states and districts this week for a brief recess period. This is a perfect time to connect with your federal legislators regarding the importance of reauthorizing the OAA.

Take action:

Contact your U.S. Representative and U.S. Senators Tammy Baldwin and Ron Johnson now to advocate for reauthorization of OAA programs and services. Use USAging's Reauthorization Toolkit at www.usaging.org/OAA as you engage your Members of Congress and local grassroots advocates! To get started, see the list of ideas and actions below.

- **Send an email or letter to your Representative and Senators** (See [Wisconsin Members of 118th Congress](#) for contact information). Use USAging's [template letter](#) to get started educating your Members of Congress. It is particularly important that lawmakers hear from you if they serve on the Senate HELP and/or Aging Committee(s) or the House Education and Labor Committees, which have jurisdiction over OAA in Congress. USAging has posted a list of [key House and Senate committee members](#).
- **Engage your Members of Congress on social media.** Use USAging's OAA [social media toolkit](#) on Facebook, LinkedIn and X to spread the word about OAA! Make sure to follow and tag your lawmakers in these posts.
- **Ask your grassroots advocates to email/post a short social media note to lawmakers.** Members monitor their email/website traffic for constituent correspondence, and



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personal messages resonate most. Ask your grassroots advocates to [share why OAA is important to them](#).

- **Share stories in person.** Attend a townhall meeting this week to share how important OAA services are to older adults and caregivers. Better yet, invite your Members of Congress to come see your agency in action and meet some of their constituents receiving OAA services!

We must ensure that all members of Congress know that OAA programs and services enable older constituents and family caregivers to age with health, well-being, dignity and independence in their districts and states.