

## **ACTION ALERT: Urge Your Federal Lawmakers to Protect and Fund Critical Older Americans Act (OAA) Programs**

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While Senate and House appropriators have been negotiating a deal, reports suggest they are at an impasse and a final FY 2025 funding bill may not be easy to produce by March 14. Work on the FY 2025 appropriations are complicated by:

- Proposed cuts to Medicaid, SNAP (FoodShare in Wis.), and other programs included in the FY 2026 budget resolution, and
- Past and current attempts by the federal administration to freeze federal funding and otherwise override congressional authority to appropriate federal funding. While a lot may change in the next two weeks,

The conflicts right now are serious enough that one cannot rule out a shutdown. **That is why it is especially important for Aging Network advocates to keep weighing in on the importance of Older Americans Act and other federal funding sources you rely upon to meet the needs of older people and family caregivers in your community!**

### **Take Action Now**

Contact U.S. Senators Tammy Baldwin and Ron Johnson and your U.S. Representative to let them know how critical OAA funding is to the people you serve and to advocate for the highest possible level of funding (see USAging's [Appropriations Chart](#)) for OAA programs and services, and to extend funding for MIPPA Medicare Low-Income Outreach and Enrollment programs. Find your Members' contact information on these websites: [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov) and [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov) (or see **Wisconsin Members of the 119<sup>th</sup> Congress** - <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008426>).

- **Put your requests in writing!** Use USAging's customizable templates ([AAA/Title VI](#)) to help you format your letter and customize your asks to reflect your agency/program. Give your Members of Congress a sense of how your/their communities are affected—take the time to localize what this funding means for the older adults and caregivers in your community, tribe, or state. Check out USAging's [FY 2025 appropriations campaign page](#) for additional resources. You are encouraged to use your agency's letterhead, but if that is not feasible, send it from your Governing Board, Advisory Council or even yourself as a private citizen. Or do all three! You can find the contact information on your Members' websites: [house.gov](http://house.gov) and [senate.gov](http://senate.gov).

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- **Encourage your board and members to attend any of your federal legislators' virtual or in-person events** and ask that they put in a good word for OAA funding and its impact in your community.
- **Engage your provider network.** Urge your vendors/providers, advisory board members and other important stakeholders to send their own letters to Congress.

Please do all you can to amplify the message and engage others who understand the value of OAA in their communities!

### **Core member organizations**

*Aging and Disability Professionals Association of Wisconsin (ADPAW) • Alzheimer's Association Wisconsin Chapter Board on Aging and Long Term Care (BOALTC) • Wisconsin Adult Day Services Association (WADSA) Wisconsin Association of Area Agencies on Aging (W4A) • Wisconsin Association of Benefit Specialists (WABS) Wisconsin Association of Nutrition Directors (WAND) • Wisconsin Association of Senior Centers (WASC) Wisconsin Family and Caregiver Support Alliance (WFACSA) • Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging (WIHA) Wisconsin Senior Advocates • Wisconsin Senior Corps Association (WISCA) • Wisconsin Tribal Aging Unit Association*

### **Mission**

*The Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN) works with and for all older adults by educating community members and policy makers on priority issues while advocating for meaningful change. Learn more at <https://gwaar.org/waan>.*

*(March 3, 2025)*