

Federal ACTION ALERT

Protect the Older Americans Act

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Reach Out to Your U.S. Senators and Representatives to Ensure Older Americans Act (OAA) Programs Stay Together!

The President's FY 2026 HHS **budget draft** was leaked last week, and it shows the Trump Administration's **intent to separate the OAA programs and send them to two different agencies** (the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services [CMS] and the Administration for Children and Families [ACF]) to administer. The budget also calls for **zeroing out several key OAA and other aging programs**, including **OAA Title III D** (Health Promotion and Chronic Disease Self-Management Education) and **Title VII (Long-Term Care Ombudsman)**, as well as **elder falls prevention, lifespan respite, elder justice/adult protective services, ADRCs** (note: funding for Wis. ADRCs is not affected by this), **State Health Insurance Assistance Programs (SHIP)**, and **Medicare Improvements for Patients and Providers Act (MIPPA)** (although a one-year extension is included).

Action Needed: Contact your Members of Congress today and call for OAA programs to remain together at the Administration of Children and Families (ACF) and for critical aging programs to be saved from elimination! **Advocacy is not optional!**

Take Action Now!

Contact **your U.S. Representative** (find out who represents you here: <https://www.house.gov/representatives/find-your-representative>) and **U.S. Senators Tammy Baldwin and Ron Johnson** (find contact information here: <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008426>) **NOW to advocate for keeping OAA programs together at ACF and preventing the elimination of critical aging programs.** Give your members of Congress a sense of how their communities will be affected—take the time to localize what tearing OAA programs apart and the elimination of key aging programs means for the older adults and caregivers in your community, tribe or state.

STEP 1: Put your requests in writing! Send an email requesting their support. Use USAging's email template below but customize it to your agency/community (be sure to weave in data and stories on those you serve). Send your email to their DC and district offices. Find contact information here - <https://gwaar.org/api/cms/viewFile/id/2008426>.

STEP 2: Make your support for OAA funding public.

- Attend any virtual events/town halls your Senators and Representatives are hosting during the current and upcoming congressional recesses (House and Senate: April 14–25,

May 26–30), and raise the issue of splitting up OAA programs and elimination of key aging programs during the Q&A!

- Find out whether any of your agency's stakeholders know the Members of Congress serving your community or if they will see them at any virtual events. If so, ask that they raise this as well and what the impact would be on the community should OAA programs remain separated and other aging programs remain eliminated.

STEP 3: Schedule meetings and visits with your lawmakers. Request virtual meetings or invite your lawmaker to an onsite visit when members of Congress will be in their states and districts this month and in May (see dates above). Get on their local calendars NOW and engage them in your May Older Americans Month activities or other events! Individual site visits, even if virtual, are also a great opportunity to educate your elected officials about the critical services you provide to their constituents. All you have to do is ask! (Tip: Put the request in writing. Call or email the DC office to ensure your request gets to the scheduler.)

STEP 4: Engage your provider network. Urge your vendors/providers, advisory board members and other important stakeholders to send their own letters/emails to Congress. **Please do all you can to amplify the message and engage others who understand the value of keeping OAA programs together and saving critical aging programs!**

Forward this *Alert* to your networks or edit it to be best received by your agency's advocates.

USAgings' email template – edited for Wisconsin (please customize your asks to reflect your agency/program).

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

*On behalf of **[YOUR AGENCY if applicable]**, I am writing to you to share grave concerns regarding President Trump's draft FY 2026 HHS budget because it includes a major threat to the ability of older adults to age well at home and in the community. The budget will dismantle and destroy the integration of the cost-effective aging programs and services under the Older Americans Act (OAA), such as those offered by our agency as well as the other agencies nationwide that serve millions of older Americans and their caregivers around the country.*

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). The budget draft also outlined plans to zero out many critical aging programs that support the older adults in **[YOUR COMMUNITY]**, such as OAA's

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>.

evidence-based health promotion and disease prevention program (Title III D) and elder rights (Title VII) efforts to prevent elder abuse and neglect, among others.

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 Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) and local aging units 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 support services, transportation, nutrition, case management, social engagement, caregiver support and many other services.

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 [YOUR COMMUNITY OR STATE] 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 ACF. I also ask for your support to prevent the elimination of critical services to older adults in [YOUR COMMUNITY OR STATE] in the FY 2026 appropriations bills.

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.]

Note on prioritization: the template email above, while referencing the proposed funding cuts, focuses primarily on the breaking apart of the OAA, as it is our most immediate threat. Our recently launched [FY 2026 appropriations campaign](#) will continue to elevate any proposed cuts to OAA, SHIP and other key sources of funding to support older adults and caregivers, so more to come on that effort in the coming weeks and months!

Thank you for your advocacy!

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