



February 5, 2020

The Hon. Mitch McConnell, Majority Leader
The Hon. Chuck Schumer, Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Hon. Nancy Pelosi, Speaker
The Hon. Kevin McCarthy, Minority Leader
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Hon. Lamar Alexander, Chairman
The Hon. Patty Murray, Ranking Member
Committee on Health, Education, Labor & Pensions
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Hon. Bobby Scott, Chairman
The Hon. Virginia Foxx, Ranking Member
Committee on Education and Labor
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Leaders McConnell and Schumer, Speaker Pelosi, Leader McCarthy,
Chairman Alexander, Ranking Member Murray,
Chairman Scott and Ranking Member Foxx,

Our organization, the American Society on Aging (ASA), writes to express our support for the *Supporting Older Americans Act of 2020*, which will reauthorize the Older Americans Act through Fiscal Year 2024. As the OAA expired on September 30, 2019, we especially urge legislation for reauthorization to be passed by Congress and signed into law as expeditiously as possible.

ASA represents a diverse group of over 5,000 professionals across the field of aging, including practitioners, educators, administrators, policymakers, businesspeople, researchers, and students. Members of the Society are bound together by a common goal of supporting the commitment and enhancing the knowledge and skills of those who seek to improve the quality of life of older Americans and their families.

Millions of older Americans rely on programs under the Older Americans Act for access to food, transportation, and caregiving services. These programs help American elders live independent lives and allow them to remain a part of the community. The OAA includes congregate and home-delivered nutrition support; home and community-based supportive services, such as transportation; family caregiver support services; employment services for older adults; and critical funding to support prevention of elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

We are especially pleased that this bipartisan, bicameral legislation increases funding authorization for the OAA for five years. We also applaud this legislation for modernizing and updating the OAA in numerous ways, including adding malnutrition screening within routine health screenings, improving programs for elder abuse, neglect and exploitation, increasing focus on the negative effects of social isolation, and making improvements to the National Family Caregiver Support program.

ASA is the go-to source to cultivate leadership, advance knowledge and strengthen the skills of our members and others who work with and on behalf of older adults.

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We appreciate your commitment to America's older people. Our organization is comprised of a diverse range of professionals and stakeholders in the aging community, and our work would not be possible without the funding and support provided by the OAA. We urge you to swiftly advance this legislation and ensure its timely enactment.

Sincerely,



Paul Downey, Co-Chair
ASA Public Policy Committee



Amy Herr, Co-Chair
ASA Public Policy Committee