

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

March 24, 2016

The Honorable Tom Cole
Chairman
Subcommittee on Labor, Health, and
Human Services, and Education
House Appropriations Committee
H-309, U.S. Capitol
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Ranking Member
Subcommittee on Labor, Health, and
Human Services, and Education
House Appropriations Committee
1016 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As you develop the Fiscal Year (FY) 2017 appropriations bill for the U.S. Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, we ask that you appropriate no less than \$357,724,000 for the Administration for Community Living's (ACL) Home and Community-Based Supportive Services (HCBS) program.

The HCBS program, which is authorized in Title III, Part B, of the Older Americans Act (OAA), provides critical resources to states and local Area Agencies on Aging. Community-based agencies rely on these resources to offer an array of supportive services that are essential to keeping older adults in their homes and communities and also to allowing them to access other OAA programs. For example, the Title III, Part B, HCBS program supports services such as transportation to take seniors to congregate meal sites, medical appointments, and other locations; case management and referral assistance for seniors and their caregivers; legal assistance and elder justice activities; evidence-based exercise programs; and homemaker and chore support that can prevent injuries in the home that may result in hospitalization or even long-term institutionalization. Overall, Title III, Part B, funding is used to deliver more than 20 distinctive services to help older adults and caregivers.

The HCBS program's flexibility makes it particularly responsive to the unique needs of older adults in America's diverse communities. When older adults are able to live independently, our country's communities are strengthened and taxpayers and families avoid paying for more expensive acute health care and long-term care services.

OAA programs play an essential role in advancing the health and well-being of older adults. As the population of older adults continues to increase at a rate of 10,000 people per day—from approximately 57 million adults age 60 and older in 2010 to about 76 million older adults in 2020—Congress will need to adequately fund OAA programs. The FY 2016 Omnibus Appropriations Act took a step in the right direction when it provided an overall 1.96 percent increase for OAA programs. That law, however, did not provide any increase for Title III, Part B, services. In fact, the HCBS program has not received additional funding since its budget was reduced by sequestration-imposed cuts in FY 2013, and Title III, Part B, services are currently funded at levels less than what they were a decade ago despite a growing population of older adults and increasing need.

We respectfully ask that you appropriate no less than \$357,724,000 for the HCBS program. Thank you for your consideration of this request. We look forward to working with you to make sure America's older adults receive the supportive services they need to live independently. ;

Sincerely,



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Patrick E. Murphy
Member of Congress



Robert C. "Bobby" Scott
Ranking Member
Committee on Education and the Workforce



Rubén Hinojosa
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
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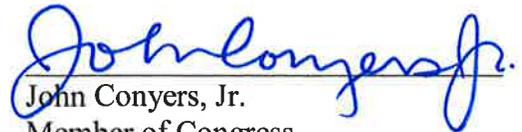
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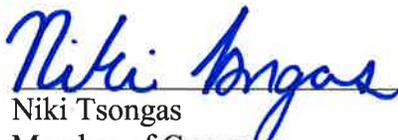
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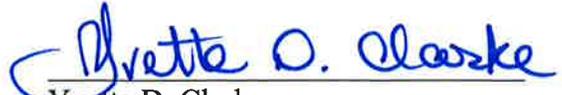
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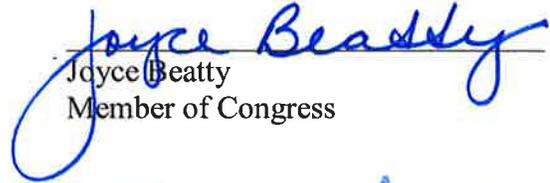
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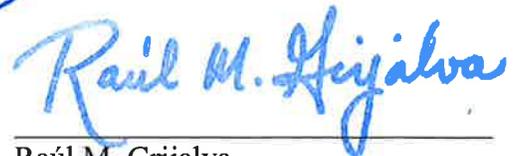
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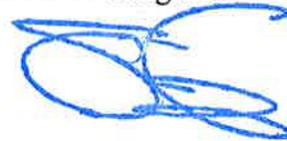
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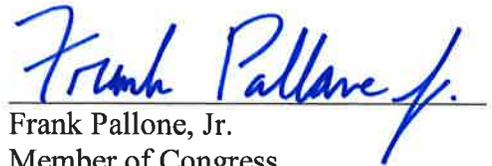
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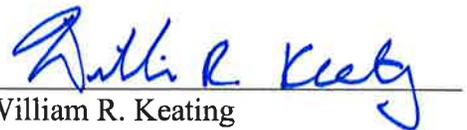
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Member of Congress



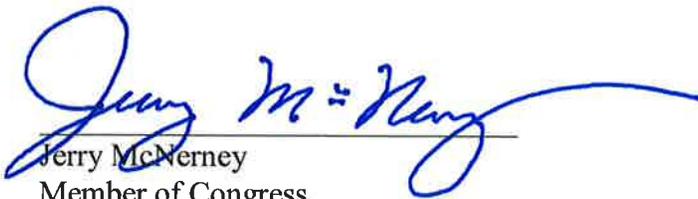
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