



Ohio Association of
Area Agencies on Aging

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Honorable Senator Bernie Moreno
U.S. Senate
SR-284 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Senator Moreno:

On behalf of the Ohio Association of Area Agencies on Aging (o4a), I write to urge your support to protect and strengthen FY 2027 funding for Older Americans Act (OAA) programs administered through the Administration for Community Living (ACL) at the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services.

Ohio's 12 Area Agencies on Aging, part of a network of 613 Area Agencies on Aging nationwide, deliver essential services that help older adults and caregivers remain healthy, independent, and safe at home. In 2024, Ohio's aging network served more than 549,000 individuals through OAA-funded services.

Ohio is home to approximately 2.8 million residents age 60 and older — a number that continues to grow. Without adequate federal investment, communities and families will struggle to meet the increasing need. OAA funding flows from the federal government to states and is delivered locally through Area Agencies on Aging and community providers—ensuring efficient, community-based support where it's needed most.

OAA programs provide a wide range of critical services, including:

- Congregate and home-delivered meals to address hunger, malnutrition and social isolation
- In-home supports and transportation
- Health and wellness programs
- Information and referral services
- Elder abuse prevention
- Support for family caregivers, including respite and training

O4a supports increases to all titles of the OAA to meet the current and future needs of older adults but we specifically urge Congress to protect and increase funding for the following OAA services when developing the FY 2027 HHS budget:

- **Title III-B: Home and Community-Based Supportive Services**
- **Title III-E: National Family Caregiver Support Program**
- **Title VI: Native American Aging Programs, Part A (nutrition and supportive services) and Part C (family caregiver support)**

We appreciate the modest increases provided in FY 2026, including additional funding for Title III-B and Title VI programs. These investments make a meaningful difference, but more is needed to keep pace with rising demand.

In particular, we urge increased funding for the National Family Caregiver Support Program (Title III-E)—the only federal program dedicated to supporting family caregivers, who provide the majority of long-term care in this country.

Sustained and increased investment in OAA programs is essential to helping older adults age with dignity and independence while supporting the caregivers who make that possible. We would welcome the opportunity to discuss how OAA programs are serving older adults and caregivers across Ohio. Thank you for your continued commitment to older Ohioans.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Beth Kowalczyk", with a long horizontal stroke extending to the right.

Beth Kowalczyk

CEO, o4a