



December 5, 2025

The Honorable John Thune
Majority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Charles E. Schumer
Minority Leader
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bill Cassidy
Chairman
Committee on Health, Education, Labor,
and Pensions
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bernard Sanders
Ranking Member
Committee on Health, Education, Labor,
and Pensions
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

Dear Leader Thune, Leader Schumer, Chairman Cassidy Sanders, and Ranking Member Sanders:

On behalf of the National Council on Aging (NCOA), I am pleased to endorse S. 2120, the Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act of 2025 and urge its swift passage by Congress.

For over sixty years, the Older Americans Act (OAA) has funded critical services that keep our nation's seniors healthy and independent--services like meals, job training, senior centers, health promotion, benefits enrollment, direct care training, and more. OAA provides the foundation on which federal, state, and local organizations deliver critical services for older adults and caregivers. The continued strong bipartisan support and commitment to an upward trajectory of investment for OAA programs are critical for OAA's reauthorization.

NCOA's reauthorization priorities include honoring the OAA commitment to multipurpose senior centers, expanding the reach of healthy aging programs, strengthening our nation's care infrastructure, and expanding the only federal program focused on the employment of low-income older workers. We appreciate that our proposals were reflected as follows:

Senior Centers: NCOA applauds the assurances regarding III-B expenditures and language enhancing the role of community-based organizations in OAA service delivery and strategies.

Healthy Aging: NCOA supports the reinforcement of crucial technical assistance for implementation of evidence-based programs and providing flexibility to consider evidence-informed healthy aging practices. In addition, we welcome the expansion of falls prevention demonstration authority, improvements in language related to mental health and infectious diseases, options to deliver medically-tailored meals, and support for safe and healthy homes.

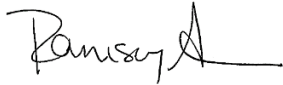
Direct Care Workforce: NCOA appreciates the provisions that strengthen authorities for sustained funding for the Direct Care Workforce Strategies Center.

Older Workers: NCOA welcomes language that highlights the role that the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) plays in supporting the aging services workforce; iterates the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (WIOA) services should be made available to older workers; and calls for a GAO report to distinguish SCSEP from WIOA. We believe that that the program continues to produce tangible successes for the low-income workers with multiple barriers to employment it serves, and the unique goals, delivery strategies, and appropriate performance measures this population deserves must be preserved.

In the midst of an historic surge of over 11,000 Americans turning 65 each day through 2027, a commitment to the Older Americans Act is crucial. Chronic conditions continue to be the leading cause of frailty, disability, and death in the United States, and 80 percent of older adults experience two or more. Senior centers serve as a gateway to the nation's aging network, connecting older adults to vital community services, yet they continue to be underfunded, particularly in areas of greatest need. The demands on family caregivers' time, finances, and health are skyrocketing, and there remains a growing gap between the demand for direct care and the available workforce nationwide. Older adults also continue to struggle with employment; 1.3 million were unemployed in September 2025, and over 38 percent have been searching for work for 27 weeks or longer.

December often affords an opportunity to advance legislation in an expedited manner. We request that you consider securing the Senate's approval of S. 2120 before year's end. The National Council on Aging continues its decades-long commitment to the OAA and stands ready to continue our collaboration to advance this reauthorization.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Ramsey Alwin", with a stylized flourish at the end.

Ramsey Alwin
President and CEO