



March 5, 2014

The Honorable Suzanne Bonamici
U.S. House of Representatives
439 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Bonamici:

On behalf of the National Council on Aging, I am pleased to share NCOA's endorsement of H.R. 4122, the Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act of 2014.

As you know, reauthorization of the Older Americans Act (OAA) has historically occurred with strong bipartisan, bicameral support, and we appreciate your efforts to help advance this process in the House by building on the legislation unanimously approved by the Senate Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee.

First and foremost, your legislation recognizes that the Act continues to provide a strong foundation for the Aging Services Network and its partners to empower older adults to retain or improve their health and economic independence so they can remain in their own homes and communities. The most significant reason why the Act has not yet fully realized its true potential has been a lack of investment.

Reauthorization of the OAA as increasing waves of Baby Boomers turn 65 offers a prime opportunity to ensure that successes of the Act can be better leveraged, and innovation continues to be fostered to meet the needs of today's seniors. Proposals in your legislation that seize this opportunity include those which explicitly establish economic security as a goal of the Act, set the standard for implementing evidence-based health promotion and disease prevention, and promote senior center modernization.

We applaud your ongoing efforts to move OAA reauthorization forward, and we look forward to continuing to work with you to promote a bipartisan, bicameral process that remains true to the history of this important legislation.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "James P. Firman". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

James P. Firman, Ed.D.
President & CEO