May 2, 2012

James P. Firman, Ed.D.
President and CEO
National Council on Aging
1901 L Street NW, 4th Floor
Washington, DC 20036

Dear President Firman,

I am writing to express my support for the reauthorization of the Older Americans Act. With the fiscal challenges facing the nation, there are difficult decisions to make about how to spend government resources. As I work with my colleagues in Congress to make these hard choices, I strongly believe that we must keep in mind the needs of America’s seniors. As members of the Greatest Generation, these individuals sacrificed and served our nation with honor. It is now our responsibility to ensure that their needs are met.

By 2030, senior citizens will make up close to 20 percent of the population. In my home state of Delaware, the senior population is growing at an even faster rate. As the senior population grows, programs and resources geared toward seniors will become increasingly important. The Older Americans Act provides the foundation for services that will help seniors across the country remain healthy, active, and contributing members of our communities.

In Delaware, the Older Americans Act helps fund health promotion and disease prevention services. It provides public transportation that allows seniors to get to medical appointments and senior centers. It also supports job training and employment programs so that seniors can remain in the workforce and benefit the entire community through their considerable knowledge and experience.

I am pleased to support the Older Americans Act. Having seen its positive effects in Delaware, I am committed to protecting and strengthening it as Congress debates its reauthorization this year.

Sincerely,

John C. Carney, Jr.
United States Representative