



Members of Congress recently agreed on a budget agreement that sets the overall federal funding level for fiscal years (FY) 2020 and 2021. This means that lawmakers will now focus on approving final spending bills, including for Older Americans Act (OAA) and other critical aging programs, before current funding expires at the end of September.

The **good news** is that the House of Representatives already passed much-needed increases for OAA and other aging programs earlier this summer! But that means that Senators will also have to approve the House-passed increases to make them a reality.

***We expect Congress to act soon on funding decisions, so NOW is the perfect time for all of us to contact our federal Representatives and Senators to advocate for the highest possible funding levels for OAA and other critical aging programs!***

At NCAAA we are advocating for these programs alongside our national champions in Washington, DC. However, we need YOU to amplify our voices with lawmakers! **We hope you will consider taking the following steps in support of Older Americans Act funding!**

#### **How to Take Action:**

**Contact Senators Murphy and Blumenthal, and Representatives Larson, Courtney and Hayes now to encourage them to approve House-passed increases for OAA programs.** Use some of the sample language below in your outreach, but make sure to fill in details about the effect these programs have had on you and others in our community.

#### **Put Your Requests in Writing.**

If you can, put your requests in writing via our Senators and Representative(s) websites:

- <https://www.murphy.senate.gov/contact>

- <https://www.blumenthal.senate.gov/contact/>
- <https://larson.house.gov/contact>
- <https://courtney.house.gov/contact>
- <https://hayes.house.gov/contact>

Also, [www.senate.gov](http://www.senate.gov) and [www.house.gov](http://www.house.gov).

### **Make A Few Short Phone Calls.**

If you'd rather call than write our lawmakers (or do both!), this is an easy way to be heard! Use the Capitol Switchboard (202.224.3121) to reach DC offices, or look up the district phone numbers on their websites.

***NOTE: that they will be in the state and their districts until September 9, so it's a great time to reach out locally. Check their website for events such as Town Hall meetings or sign up for their newsletters and action alerts.***

### **Sample Script for Making a Call:**

*[IT'S IMPORTANT TO IDENTIFY YOURSELF AS A CONSTITUENT AND SHARE ANY RELEVANT PERSONAL INFORMATION YOU FEEL COMFORTABLE SHARING.*

*For example, "I live in the town of X with my spouse who is living with Alzheimer's Disease. Thanks to our Home Delivered Meals, our Chore Service, and transportation programs funded by the Older Americans Act we've been able to stay in our home of 45 years."]* – Please personalize this to suit. OR, just skip to the paragraph below!

I am reaching out today regarding funding for the Older Americans Act and other aging programs lawmakers will consider as they finalize FY 2020 federal funding bills. I urge Congress to adopt a bipartisan, long-term funding bill that includes the House-passed increases for aging programs including for:

- **Older Americans Act Title III B Supportive Services**, which provides critical in-home help to older adults who would otherwise not be able to remain living independently, and **Title III E Family Caregiver Support Services**.

Older Americans Act programs are important to me and people like me in CT, and with more Americans living longer, we should be investing in these programs now!!

Please ensure that any final funding bill reflects the House-approved increases for Older Americans Act and other critical aging programs.

Thank you!