2019 RESOLUTIONS

VACCINE COVERAGE

WHEREAS NANASP successfully advocated for Medicare Part B coverage of the improved pneumococcal vaccine in 2014, after testifying before the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) Advisory Council on Immunization Practices (ACIP), which recommended this coverage;

WHEREAS in late December 2014 the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services based on this recommendation approved Medicare coverage

WHEREAS pneumonia disproportionately affects older adults and is the fourth leading cause of death in older adults;

WHEREAS the rate of vaccination against pneumonia grew significantly after Medicare began covering the new pneumococcal vaccine;

WHEREAS according to the CDC, we are experiencing the longest flu season on record in 2018-2019;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: NANASP strongly supports the continued coverage under Medicare Part B of all current forms of pneumococcal vaccines and urges the ACIP to maintain their 2014 recommendation which led to Medicare coverage.

REBATES

WHEREAS the Trump administration has proposed banning prescription drug rebates that are given to pharmacy benefit managers and instead giving rebates to Medicare beneficiaries at the point of sale;

WHEREAS a recent survey NANASP conducted showed that 71% of older adults in our member programs support this proposal;

WHEREAS those with the highest drug costs stand to benefit the most from this proposal;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: NANASP strongly supports the final adoption of this rule and urges simultaneous final adoption of policies which would avert significant premium increases.
OLDER AMERICANS ACT

WHEREAS the Older Americans Act is due for reauthorization this year;

WHEREAS Congress has begun its work on the reauthorization of the Act;

WHEREAS NANASP has been working closely with other aging groups in the Leadership Council of Aging Organizations (LCAO) to shape the proposals Congress is considering during its deliberations;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: NANASP calls for a prompt and bipartisan reauthorization of the Act for five years with significant funding increases to allow programs to serve the growing demand for services. We call for the protection of nutrition funding from diversion to unrelated services. We also advocate for the addition of malnutrition screening to the health screenings called for under the Act.

FY2020 NUTRITION FUNDING

WHEREAS Older Americans Act (OAA) nutrition funding increases are needed to keep pace with inflation and growing demand;

WHEREAS NANASP and Meals on Wheels America have jointly called for increases in funding;

WHEREAS the House Appropriations Committee has approved an FY 2020 Labor-HHS-Education spending bill proposing $1 billion in funding for the OAA nutrition programs, an increase of over $93 million;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: NANASP calls on the full House and Senate to pass this increase in funding for OAA nutrition programs for FY 2020. We also call for its passage before September 30, 2019, in order to ensure uninterrupted, continued funding for OAA nutrition programs in FY 2020.

MALNUTRITION

WHEREAS one in two older adults in the United States are malnourished or at risk for malnutrition;

WHEREAS many of these older adults are not screened for malnutrition;

WHEREAS groups such as the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics and the Defeat Malnutrition Today coalition (of which NANASP is a founding member) are working to raise awareness of older adult malnutrition;

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: NANASP urges the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) to adopt quality measures to ensure that older adults are screened, assessed, diagnosed, and treated for malnutrition as called for in the House Labor-HHS-Education Appropriations bill. NANASP further calls on its members to observe Malnutrition Awareness Week in September to raise public awareness about this serious issue.