



## National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs

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**NANASP's mission** is to strengthen through advocacy and education those who help older Americans  
**NANASP's vision** is to reshape the future of nutrition and healthy aging.

### SUPPORT FOR THE SENIOR COMMUNITY SERVICE EMPLOYMENT PROGRAM (SCSEP)

**Whereas**, the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) is a major program authorized by the Older Americans Act and administered by the US Department of Labor (USDOL);

**Whereas**, SCSEP serves 99% of all counties throughout the U.S. through a diverse network of almost 600 local, state, and national grantees;

**Whereas**, the Older Americans Act requires USDOL to collect and report to Congress three types of SCSEP performance measures: healthy aging, labor market outcomes, and community service performed;

**Whereas**, for more than a decade annual SCSEP performance reports from USDOL have consistently shown SCSEP to be an effective program that consistently exceeds its goals;

**Whereas**, during the last full program year USDOL reported that:

- More than 67,000 previously unemployed low-income older Americans provided 35.7 million hours as SCSEP participants in 20,000 local public and nonprofit agencies serving the community;
- 43% of all SCSEP participants had one or more years of college and 39% had a high school diploma;
- 49% were a racial or ethnic minority, 65% were women, 32% were 65 or older (including 13% who were 70 years or older), 13% were veterans (or qualified spouses), and 28% lived in rural areas;
- 91% of SCSEP participants reported that their physical health is the same or better than before they entered SCSEP, and 73% reported that their outlook on life is a little more or much more positive; and
- Nearly half (45%) of all SCSEP participants leave the program for unsubsidized employment each year;

**Whereas**, the unemployment rate of low-income older Americans is three times higher than the overall unemployment rate, and they are overrepresented among the long-term unemployed;

**Whereas**, many senior nutrition and other aging services programs host at least one SCSEP participant, and that each year SCSEP provides about 11 million paid work hours to nutrition and aging services programs;

**Whereas** the President's FY 2018 budget calls for the elimination of SCSEP:

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** NANASP strongly opposes the proposed elimination of SCSEP because SCSEP has been and continues to be a unique federal program of demonstrated effectiveness that improves the health, well-being, and economic security of low-income older Americans, and because NANASP programs directly benefit from SCSEP;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** NANASP will communicate its opposition to the House and Senate, especially to its respective Appropriations Committees, and will urge the program be funded at the Older Americans Act authorization levels of \$454.5 million for FY 2018.

## OPPOSITION TO THE PRESIDENT'S FY2018 BUDGET

**Whereas** in two phases the President released his FY 2018 budget to the Congress and the public;

**Whereas** the first budget proposal called for the elimination of key aging programs including the Senior Community Services Employment Program (SCSEP), Senior Corps, the Community Services Block Grant (CSBG), the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), and the Medicare State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP);

**Whereas** the second proposal called for the elimination of the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG), which provides funding for adult protective services and other local aging services, and some deep cuts in other programs which serve millions of older adults such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP, commonly known as food stamps), which would be cut by \$193 billion over ten years, and Medicaid, which would be cut by \$610 billion over ten years;

**Whereas** the President's budget calls for cuts in programs that were increased in the final federal FY 2017 omnibus appropriations funding bill, including the Older Americans Act (OAA) Title IIIB Home and Community-Based Services Program, the OAA Title IIIC Nutrition Programs, and the OAA Title VI Native American Nutrition and Supportive Services Program;

**Whereas** flat funding of programs is a cut when inflation from year to year is factored in:

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** NANASP rejects all the previously-referenced eliminations and cuts contained in the President's budget proposals;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** NANASP calls on Congress to maintain these programs, including SCSEP, Senior Corps, CSBG, CDBG, LIHEAP, SHIP, SSBG, SNAP, and Medicaid, as they are;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** NANASP also calls on Congress to provide funding for Older Americans Act programs which mirrors the three percent per year increase included in the bipartisan Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act of 2016.

## SUPPORT FOR FARM BILL NUTRITION PROGRAMS

**Whereas** the Farm Bill, which funds both nutrition and agriculture programs, is due for reauthorization in 2018;

**Whereas** millions of low-income seniors depend on Farm Bill programs such as the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP), SNAP Education (SNAP-Ed) and the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program (SFMNP) for nutrition assistance and education;

**Whereas** funding for Farm Bill programs, including SNAP, has been threatened by the current Administration;

**Whereas** legislators are currently working to shape the Farm Bill reauthorization:

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** NANASP supports protecting access to and the funding structure of SNAP, the nation's fundamental nutrition safety net program;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** NANASP supports maintaining authorized funding levels for CSFP, SNAP-Ed, and the SFMNP and supporting implementation of the CSFP, SNAP-Ed, and the SFMNP nationwide;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** NANASP supports an on-time, multi-year reauthorization of the Farm Bill;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** NANASP supports keeping nutrition and agriculture programs together in the Farm Bill to further protect both programs.

## **OPPOSITION TO THE INDEPENDENT PAYMENT ADVISORY BOARD (IPAB)**

**Whereas** the Independent Payment Advisory Board (IPAB) was created as part of the Affordable Care Act;

**Whereas** IPAB is a 15-member board all appointed by the President;

**Whereas** IPAB has the authority to reduce Medicare spending if spending growth reaches a certain level, with the effect of potentially harming beneficiaries and the providers from whom they receive care;

**Whereas** IPAB recommendations are binding unless the Senate, with 60 votes, blocks them, greatly restricting the traditional role of Congress in setting Medicare policy;

**Whereas** while IPAB has never been triggered, indications are that it could be later in 2017:

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** NANASP supports the repeal of IPAB, as it has stated on previous occasions;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** NANASP commends the action by Congress to bar the use of funds in FY 2017 for IPAB and urges the ban on funding to be made permanent.

## **OPPOSITION TO THE AMERICAN HEALTH CARE ACT**

**Whereas** the Affordable Care Act (ACA) has been federal law since March 2010;

**Whereas** the ACA contains important provisions which benefit older adults, ranging from reforms to Medicare, lower prescription drug costs, lowering hospital readmissions, elder justice, and expanded home and community-based services under Medicaid;

**Whereas** the U.S. House of Representatives has passed the American Health Care Act (AHCA) which would serve as a replacement for the ACA, but would include cuts in Medicaid of more than \$800 billion over 10 years, repeal taxes which would shorten Medicare solvency, and allow persons 50-64 to be charged five times more for insurance than a younger adult;

**Whereas** this legislation now is before the Senate:

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:** NANASP urges the Senate to reject the House-passed AHCA and work toward a bipartisan solution to address health care reform;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED:** NANASP also urges that a final reform bill maintains the important changes made to Medicare, maintains current age ratings, and prevents devastating cuts to Medicaid.