



**National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs**

1612 K Street, NW Suite 400 Washington, DC 20006

(202) 682-6899 (202) 223-2099 fax

[www.nanasp.org](http://www.nanasp.org)

March 18, 2016

The Honorable John Kline  
Committee on Education and the Workforce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2176 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bobby Scott  
Committee on Education and the Workforce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2101 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Kline and Ranking Member Scott:

The National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs (NANASP), and our more than 1,100 members who provide nutrition and aging services across the country, is proud to support the House substitute to S.192, the Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act of 2016. It was produced in a bipartisan fashion, and we view its passage as a victory for older adults.

Our support for this bill is based on the following elements important to NANASP and its members:

- This bill is a three-year reauthorization and it provides for long-overdue higher reauthorization levels for the Older Americans Act of more than six percent over the life of the bill.
- Retaining the key elements of the nutrition programs, including separate authorizations for congregate and home-delivered meals and continuation of the policy of voluntary contributions from participants.
- Calling for greater utilization of registered dietitians in the nutrition programs.
- Calling for the use of locally-grown foods in meal programs where feasible, as well as the identification of potential partnerships and contracts with local producers and providers of locally-grown foods.
- Retaining the National Resource Center on Nutrition and Aging.
- Strengthening the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP) and updating coordination between SCSEP and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.
- Using grant funding to deliver oral health screenings to older adults.
- Calling for improved and more person-centered transportation services.
- Emphasizing elder abuse prevention, including improved training for states, area agencies on aging, and service providers on elder abuse prevention and screening.
- Requiring the Assistant Secretary for Aging to identify model programs and to provide information and technical assistance to states, area agencies on aging, and service providers to support the modernization of multipurpose senior centers.

- Clarifying the National Family Caregiver Support Program's eligibility language to include older adults who are caring for adult children with disabilities and raising children under 18.
- Continuing to emphasize evidence-based support.

We also feel that in your stated efforts to promote transparency, the Committee should pay closer attention over the next three years to the funds transferred between the nutrition programs and the supportive services programs. This bill leaves the transfer authority levels intact, but we ask for a closer accounting of the precise uses of these funds to ensure that, to the maximum extent possible, they are used for direct services.

We are hopeful that this bill will pass next week in the House and that the process with the Senate to achieve a final bill can move just as quickly. Our members and the older adults they serve have waited for more than five years to see this proven program continue with full statutory authority.

Sincerely,



Ann Cooper  
Chair  
NANASP



Robert Blancato  
Executive Director  
NANASP