



County Administrative Office
Governmental & Legislative Affairs

Josh Candelaria
Director

February 10, 2020

The Honorable Susan Collins
Chair, Special Committee on Aging
U.S. Senate
413 Dirksen Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

The Honorable Bob Casey
Ranking Member, Special Committee on Aging
U.S. Senate
393 Russell Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20002

The Honorable Bobby Scott
Chair, Committee on Education & Labor
U.S. House of Representatives
1201 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Virginia Foxx
Ranking Member, Committee on Education & Labor
U.S. House of Representatives
2462 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

Re: Supporting Older Americans Act (SOAA; H.R.4334) - SUPPORT

Dear Chairwoman Collins, Ranking Member Casey, Chairman Scott and Ranking Member Foxx:

The County of San Bernardino is please to support the recently introduced bipartisan, bicameral legislation to update and reauthorize the Older Americans Act (OAA) through 2024. The *Supporting Older Americans Act* (SOAA), an amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 4334, will provide critical resources for our county to expand and strengthen our services to the aging population while maintaining local flexibility, and we urge its quick passage.

Since 1965, the OAA has supported and improved the lives of seniors—particularly those who are low-income—through programs that promote nutrition (e.g. Meals on Wheels), improve transportation options, support caregivers, offer employment and community service opportunities, and prevent abuse and neglect. The OAA authorizes an array of services through a network of 56 State Units on Aging and more than 600 Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs), however federal funding for the OAA has not increased since 2010, creating long waiting lists for services.

The SOAA seeks to address this problem by providing annual funding increases for core OAA services for through FY 2024 by implementing a 7 percent increase in FY 2020 and 6 percent increases annually thereafter. Along with these increases, the SOAA establishes a National Research, Demonstration and Evaluation Center for the Aging Network within the Administration on Aging, requires additional research into the impact of social isolation on senior health, removes the Title III E cap on grand-families and older relative caregivers, and affirms the importance of local control and flexibility around the administration of OAA programs.

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For the above reasons, the County of San Bernardino supports the *Supporting Older Americans Act* and we urge the Senate and House to act swiftly to approve the legislation. Should you have any questions regarding the County's position, please feel free to contact Josh Candelaria, Governmental and Legislative Affairs Director, at jcandelaria@sbcountry.gov or 909 387-4821.

Sincerely,



Curt Hagman
Fourth District Supervisor
Chairman, San Bernardino County Board of Supervisors

cc: San Bernardino County Congressional Delegation