



A Passionate Voice for Compassionate Care

July 23, 2015

U.S. House
Washington, DC

Dear Representative:

On behalf of the Catholic Health Association of the United States (CHA), the national leadership organization of more than 2,200 Catholic health care systems, hospitals, long-term care facilities, sponsors, and related organizations, I am writing to ask you to support the Older Americans Act (OAA) Reauthorization Act of 2015 (S. 192).

Congress passed the Older Americans Act (OAA) in 1965 to address a lack of community social services for older Americans. The original legislation provided grants for community planning and social services, research and development projects, and personnel training in the field of aging. In the years since, programs supported by the OOA such as Meals on Wheels, caregiver assistance and elderly abuse protections have served millions of seniors. CHA has supported the reauthorization of the OOA as part of our Catholic health ministry's mission to serve all people throughout the continuum of care.

It is urgent that this vital program receive reauthorization as soon as possible. In addition to serving one of the nation's fastest growing and most vulnerable populations, the OAA also promotes fiscal responsibility by promoting efficiency in the health care system and preventing unnecessary and costly care by reducing readmission rates and improving care coordination. S. 192 makes the necessary updates and adjustments to the program to meet the current needs of



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seniors and provides a workable funding formula through 2018. Now that the Senate has approved this legislation, we urge you to support the OOA Reauthorization Act in the House.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Sr. Carol Keehan". The signature is fluid and cursive, with the first letters of "Sr.", "Carol", and "Keehan" being capitalized and prominent.

Sr. Carol Keehan, DC
President and CEO