

December 17, 2024

The Honorable Mike Johnson
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives
H-232, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries
Minority Leader, U.S. House of
Representatives
H-204, The Capitol
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Virginia Foxx
Chairwoman, Committee on Education and
the Workforce
2462 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Bobby Scott
Ranking Member, Committee on Education
and the Workforce
2328 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Submitted electronically

Dear Speaker Johnson, Minority Leader Jeffries, Chairwoman Foxx, and Ranking Member Scott:

On behalf of the Act on RAISE campaign, which brings together stakeholders across the caregiving continuum to strengthen our nation's first-ever National Strategy to support America's 53 million family caregivers, we are writing in support of The Older Americans Act (OAA) Reauthorization Act of 2024 (S. 4776), which passed the Senate via Unanimous Consent on Tuesday, December 10, 2024. We implore Leaders and Members of the House to swiftly advance this critical policy to the President before the 118th Congress adjourns.

As we have outlined in previous statements of support and in our [Policy Brief](#) published earlier this year, The OAA serves as a vital resource for nearly 11 million older adults and an estimated 800,000 caregivers annually.^{1,2} For nearly 60 years, the OAA has supported a nationwide network of state, local, and community entities that enable older adults to age with dignity and independence in their homes and communities. OAA reauthorization is an important opportunity for Congressional leaders to strengthen supports for family caregivers in every community through the National Family Caregiver Support Program (NFCSP).

The Act on RAISE Campaign members appreciate lawmakers' support for priorities reflected in the Senate-passed OAA reauthorization bill including, but not limited to:

- Reauthorizing the RAISE Family Caregivers Act and the Supporting Grandparents Raising Grandchildren Acts through 2029;
- Authorizing funding for OAA programs through 2029, which are essential to supporting family caregivers across the country; and
- Renewing and bolstering efforts to incentivize improved caregiver assessment activities and supports in the OAA.

While we support a number of other priorities that are included in the current legislation—and are eager to work toward advancing some of the Campaign's priorities that were changed or eliminated in the compromise bill in future OAA reauthorization efforts—at this

¹ The Congressional Research Service, Older Americans Act: Overview and funding (Updated May 17, 2023) R43414 (congress.gov). Available at: <https://crsreports.congress.gov/product/pdf/R/R43414>

² The Dept. of Health and Human Serv. Fiscal Year 2024 Admin. for Community Living Justification of Estimates for Appropriations Committee. Available at: <https://acl.gov/about-acl/budget>

point, the Campaign's urgent priority is ensuring that OAA reauthorization is signed into law this year. **We echo the many calls to action of our member organizations and the National Alliance for Caregiving and urge lawmakers to take every necessary action to advance this critical legislation before Congress adjourns this month!**

We remain ready and eager to work with House Leaders and members to expeditiously advance a bipartisan bill that makes meaningful improvements to vital Older Americans Act. We are grateful for your support for the essential OAA programs that ensure older adults family caregivers are valued and supported in their vital role in every community. If you have any questions about this letter, please contact Toni Gingerelli at toni@caregiving.org.

Sincerely,

Act on Raise Steering Committee Members

National Alliance for Caregiving

USAging

AARP

Alzheimer's Association and the Alzheimer's Impact Movement

The Arc of the United States

Caring Across Generations

Diverse Elders Coalition

Justice in Aging

National Council on Aging

National Health Council

Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregivers