

## **Reauthorize the Older Americans Act**

Since 1965, the Older Americans Act (OAA) has gained recognition as a unique and highly regarded statute that has stimulated the development of a comprehensive and coordinated service system. This system has contributed greatly to enhancing the lives of older individuals, family caregivers, and persons with disabilities.

Congress passed the Older Americans Act in response to concern by policymakers about a lack of community social services for older persons. Although older individuals may receive services under many other Federal programs, today the OAA is considered to be the major vehicle for the organization and delivery of social and nutrition services to this group and their caregivers. It authorizes a wide array of service programs through a national network of 56 State agencies on aging, 629 area agencies on aging, nearly 20,000 service providers, 244 Tribal organizations, and 2 Native Hawaiian organizations representing 400 Tribes. The OAA also includes community service employment for low-income older Americans; training, research, and demonstration activities in the field of aging; and vulnerable elder rights protection activities.

Designated as the local single point of entry, the Northwest Kansas Area Agency on Aging serves as the unbiased, trusted source for older Americans and their caregivers. Whether it is information on available options, in-home services, nutrition services, or insurance counseling a senior only needs to make a call to the local Area Agency on Aging office to connect them with the resources they need. Additionally as a grassroots organization, advocacy for senior services is a high priority of the Area Agency on Aging. In 2011, Congress will consider reauthorization and amendments to the OAA effective in FY 2012. In anticipation of this process, it is important that citizens educate our elected officials about the importance of our senior community programs. Whether it is your local nutrition site, your worker who helps with your bathing, or the counselor who helped you choose the right Part D drug plan – know that all of these services were made possible by the creation of the Older Americans Act.

It is important that today's Congress understands the importance of the Older Americans Act, just as the Congress in 1965 understood this. It is the major vehicle for the organization and delivery of social and nutrition services to seniors and their caregivers.

**Contact your Federal Legislators today and let them know you want  
them to  
'Vote to Reauthorize the Older Americans Act'!**

Excerpts from the Administration on Aging 2011

**OVER**

Please call **1-800-998-0180** to be connected to your Congressperson.

Email access and direct numbers are also listed below.

**Senator Jerry Moran**

Washington: (202) 224-6521  
Hays: (785) 628-6401  
<http://moran.senate.gov/public/>

**Senator Pat Roberts**

Washington: (202) 224-4774  
Dodge City: (620) 227-2244  
<http://roberts.senate.gov/public/>

**Representative Tim Huelskamp**, 1st District

Washington: (202) 225-2715  
Salina: (785) 309-0572  
<http://huelskamp.house.gov/>

**Representative Lynn Jenkins**, 2nd District

Washington: (202) 225-6601  
Topeka: (785) 234-5966  
<http://lynnjenkins.house.gov/>

**Representative Kevin Yoder**, 3rd District

Washington: (202) 225-2865  
Kansas City: (913) 621-0832  
<http://yoder.house.gov/>

**Representative Mike Pompeo**, 4th District

Washington: (202) 225-6216  
Wichita: (316) 262-8992  
<http://pompeo.house.gov/>