



Leadership Council
of Aging Organizations

Debra Whitman, Chair

May 22, 2025

The Honorable Mike Johnson

Speaker

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Hakeem Jeffries

Minority Leader

U.S. House of Representatives

Washington, DC 20515

The Leadership Council of Aging Organizations (LCAO) is a coalition of 68 leading national nonprofit organizations working throughout the country to provide direct services to older adults, strengthen communities, and ensure the well-being of older adults and those caring for them. Since 1980, LCAO has worked with all Administrations and Congresses to help the United States meet the opportunities and challenges an increasing population of older people brings to our country.

The undersigned members of LCAO write to highlight the significant harms older adults will face if the reconciliation bill is enacted. The massive cuts in health coverage, food, rent, and other programs for low-income older adults required to meet the budget targets will tear families apart, worsen health outcomes, and increase isolation and the cost of care for older adults with chronic conditions, medical complexity, disabilities, and/or Alzheimer's Disease and related dementias. We urge you to support, not harm, older adults who are counting on you back home.

The reconciliation bill will result in devastating cuts to Medicaid, including the health and long-term care that millions of older adults and their families depend on. Thirty percent of Medicaid dollars support Medicare enrollees and one in five people with Medicare rely on Medicaid to meet their needs. Medicaid helps to make Medicare more affordable for older adults who qualify and fills in health care gaps for low-income older adults by covering services that Medicare does not cover, such as dental, vision, hearing, and non-emergency medical transportation, enabling individuals without other transportation options to keep medical appointments and avoid costly emergency room visits. Medicaid is the primary payer for more than 60% of nursing home residents, and Medicaid enables older adults to live independently in the community with home and community-based services (HCBS). Cuts to Medicaid funding will mean fewer staff, less training, and fewer resources to meet the health and long-term care needs of our growing aging population. Cuts to Medicaid funding or eligibility will lead to increased

costs for older adults, states, and for the Medicare program itself, as decreased access to services results in worsened health outcomes. Cutting Medicaid will force states to make difficult choices - whether that means cutting provider payments, limiting eligibility, or reducing access to services that older Americans and their families rely on. These cuts will place greater strain on unpaid family caregivers, who provide essential support. Any cuts to Medicaid would negatively impact health care for older Americans, including access to and affordability of Medicare.

The proposed legislation takes direct aim at Medicare by cutting cost-sharing assistance that will make it unaffordable for nearly 1.4 million older adults to see the doctor or meet their basic needs. It also takes Medicare coverage from lawfully present older immigrants who have worked - often as direct care workers - and paid taxes in the United States for decades.

The reconciliation bill will cause large cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP). Roughly 6.5 million low-income adults age 60+ rely on SNAP to stay healthy and make ends meet, yet less than half of food-insecure older adults eligible for the program receive assistance. SNAP provides a modest but critical benefit to older adults, about \$5 per day on average, and is linked to decreased emergency room visits, decreased hospitalizations, and lower costs. Current SNAP benefit levels are already inadequate to stave off hunger and economic hardship, and proposals to reduce spending would halt access to lifesaving assistance, particularly for those in rural communities and those living alone. Cuts to SNAP and other critical nutrition programs will only worsen the health conditions and hunger of older adults and increase costs of care.

Older adults have sacrificed through a lifetime of hard work and look to their leaders in Congress to ensure that services are available to them. There is a growing crisis of homelessness and hardship among older adults, underpinning the need for federal lifelines. We urge you to stand with older adults and reject the reconciliation bill, because it will harm millions of older adults.

Should you have any questions or need information about the harmful impact of these cuts, LCAO and its member organizations are available to provide resources.

Sincerely,

American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees
Alliance for Aging Research
Alliance for Retired Americans
American Association of Service Coordinators
American Foundation for the Blind
American Geriatrics Society
American Society on Aging
Association for Gerontology and Human Development in Historically Black Colleges and Universities
Caring Across Generations
Center for Medicare Advocacy
Community Catalyst

Compassion & Choices
Center for Workforce Inclusion (CWI Works)
Families USA
Gerontological Society of America
International Association for Indigenous Aging
Justice in Aging
Leading Age
Lutheran Services in America
Meals on Wheels America
Medicare Rights Center
National Academy of Elder Law Attorneys
National Adult Day Services Association
National Adult Protective Services Association
National Alliance for Caregiving
National Association of Geriatric Education
National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs
National Association of Social Workers
National Association of State Long-Term Care Ombudsman Programs
National Committee to Preserve Social Security and Medicare
National Consumer Voice for Quality Long-Term Care
National Council on Aging.
Pension Rights Center
Service Employees International Union
USAging
Village to Village Network