**TEMPLATE LANGUAGE FOR REP/SENATE OUTREACH RE: FY 2022 APPROPRIATIONS**

**AAA or General Advocate Version**

April XX, 2021

Honorable [REP/SEN NAME]

[U.S. House of Representatives/U.S. Senate]

[Office Address]

Washington, DC

Dear [Representative/Senator NAME]:

On behalf of [YOUR AGENCY NAME] in [AGENCY LOCATION/STATE], we are writing regarding the FY 2022 federal funding for Older Americans Act (OAA) and other essential aging programs.

Funding for OAA programs and services is essential to the health and independence of millions of older adults and caregivers, including [ADD LOCAL STATISTIC] of the older adults and caregivers that [YOUR AGENCY NAME] serves in your district.

These OAA programs and services are funded through the U.S. Administration on Aging and delivered locally by [AGENCY NAME] and our network of community providers.

We greatly appreciate the significant COVID-relief dollars passed with bipartisan support over the past year. The pandemic has expanded the need for our services by [INSERT DATA OF INCREASED SERVICE NEEDS]. But the need will not end as we recover from this crisis. The new clients who have used services due to COVID-19 will still need help to age well at home even when fully vaccinated. COVID-relief funding addresses the immediate needs of a country in crisis, but it does not address the sustainable funding necessary to support essential life-saving programs that enable older adults to age with dignity, independence, safety and health at home.

In addition to increased demand for services due to the COVID-19 pandemic, [YOUR COMMUNITY] and across the country, we are serving a population that is aging faster than at any other point in history. By 2030, one in five Americans will be age 65 or older, an unprecedented percentage of the general population. A strong fiscally responsible strategy includes investing in the most effective aging programs like those within OAA. **We urge you to adopt OAA and other aging programs funding levels that can sustain the increased need for vital community-based services for older adults and caregivers.** If we want to enable older adults and caregivers to age with health and independence in their homes and communities where they want to be, we must provide support to meet rapidly increasing needs.

While we support increases to every part of the OAA, we encourage you to pay special attention to and significantly increase the capacity of four OAA programs, starting with Title III B Supportive Services, our most flexible source of OAA funding and a backbone set of services. [INSERT LOCAL EXAMPLES OF HOW TITLE III B SUPPORTS OLDER ADULTS—INCLUDE LOCAL DATA IF POSSIBLE ABOUT THE VALUE OF III B SUPPORTS.] Our agency also administers programs to support family caregivers under the OAA’s Title III E National Family Caregiver Support Program. [INSERT LOCAL EXAMPLES OF WHAT YOU PROVIDE UNDER III E] Under Title III D, we operate the following evidence-based programs to help older adults better manage their health and avoid unnecessary hospitalizations and health expenditures: [NAME OF YOUR EVIDENCE-BASED PROGRAM(S)].

**We hope you will support the critical need for Aging Network investment and champion sustainable program funding for FY 2022 OAA Title III B funding at $784 million**, **Title III E National Family Caregiver Support Program at $284 million and Title III D Evidence-Based Disease Prevention and Health Promotion at $50 million.** Our national association, n4a, also is fighting for Title VI Grants for Native American Aging Programs, $70.4 million for Part A (nutrition and supportive services) and $21.6 million for Part C (family caregiver support), to assist our colleagues serving elders in Indian Country, Hawaii and Alaska, and we echo their call.

[INSERT ANY COMPELLING STATISTICS YOU HAVE ABOUT AGING TRENDS IN YOUR COMMUNITY.] With more Americans living longer, we should make it a priority to invest in key Older Americans Act and other aging programs that keep seniors healthy and independent in their homes and communities!

As the FY 2022 funding process advances, it is essential that lawmakers recognize and make wise federal investments in programs that keep older adults in their homes and communities and that support caregivers. In the interest of the older adults and caregivers who we serve and who you represent in [DISTRICT/STATE], we hope you will support, and urge your colleagues to support these increases for critical OAA and other aging programs.

Please feel free to reach out anytime to [INSERT CONTACT INFORMATION], on these or any aging issues of importance to you and your constituents.

Sincerely,

[NAME, affiliation, address, etc.]