Senate Reaffirms Support for Aging Programs that Help Millions of Older Americans

WASHINGTON, DC—Yesterday, the U.S. Senate passed S. 192, the Older Americans Act Reauthorization Act of 2015, signaling its strong support for the vital home and community-based services that the Older Americans Act (OAA) authorizes and funds in communities across the nation.

On July 14, advocates around the country marked the 50th anniversary of the Older Americans Act, so it is particularly striking that the Senate took action on the bill within days of this milestone. The Older Americans Act provides essential services every year to nearly 8 million seniors, including information and referral assistance, in-home supports, nutrition programs, transportation, caregiver support, job training, legal services and protection from abuse and financial exploitation.

n4a applauds the Senate’s approval of this bipartisan measure, designed to modestly update the way the OAA achieves its mission of helping older adults age with dignity, independence and health in their homes and communities.

In a statement, n4a CEO Sandy Markwood said, “Unanimous approval of S. 192 by the Senate is a pivotal achievement that puts us much closer to ensuring that OAA programs will continue to support older adults to live with dignity and independence in their homes and communities for as long as possible. Our members, the 623 Area Agencies on Aging and 256 Title VI (of the Act) Native American aging programs, work on the front lines of aging every day, providing a broad range of services and supports that enhance the lives of older adults and doing their part to realize the vision of the Older Americans Act in communities all across the country.”

“We couldn’t be more pleased that, during this historic week when we celebrate the 50th anniversary of critical OAA programs, the Senate is endorsing the value of this work. We look forward to working with Members of the House and the President to see OAA reauthorization signed into law,” added Markwood.
Having worked since 2011 with congressional leaders on reauthorization, n4a would like to the Senate leaders who crafted the bipartisan bill and drove its passage: Senate HELP Committee Chairman Lamar Alexander (R-TN), HELP Ranking Member Patty Murray (D-WA), Subcommittee Ranking Member Bernie Sanders (I-VT) and Senator Richard Burr (R-NC, formerly Subcommittee Ranking Member in the 113th Congress), all of whom were original co-sponsors of the bill when it was introduced in the 114th Congress in January 2015.

About n4a

The National Association of Area Agencies on Aging (n4a) is a 501c(3) membership association representing America’s national network of 623 Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) and providing a voice in the nation’s capital for the 246 Title VI Native American aging programs. The mission of n4a is to build the capacity of its members so they can better help older adults and people with disabilities live with dignity and choices in their homes and communities for as long as possible.

As the local component of the Aging Network, AAAs and Title VI Native American aging programs successfully develop, coordinate and deliver aging services in every community across the nation, providing assistance to more than eight million older Americans and caregivers annually.

**Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs)** were established under the Older Americans Act (OAA) in 1973 to respond to the needs of Americans 60 and over in every local community. By providing a range of options that allow older adults to choose the home and community-based services and living arrangements that suit them best, AAAs make it possible for older adults to “age in place” in their homes and communities. ([Learn more about AAAs.](#))

**Title VI, Grants for Indian Tribal Organizations**, was included in the 1978 Amendments to the OAA. Title VI Native American aging programs provide nutrition, supportive and caregiver services to older American Indians, Alaska Natives and Native Hawaiians.

Learn more about the **Aging Services** provided by AAAs and Title VI programs. Find the **AAA and/or Title VI program** in your area.

---

**National Association of Area Agencies on Aging**
1730 Rhode Island Avenue, NW, Suite 1200
Washington, DC 20036
[www.n4a.org](http://www.n4a.org)
202.872.0888

###