

Older Americans Act Re-authorization of 2015 (S.192): Talking Points

A re-authorization bill has been introduced in the Senate, S. 192, by Senator Lamar Alexander (Tenn.) and passed the Senate HELP Committee on January 28, 2015.

Older Americans Act nutrition programs keep seniors healthy and independent

- OAA nutrition programs provide nutritionally balanced meals to a vulnerable population, helping older adults remain healthy and independent in their homes.
- Older adults with good nutritional status are better able to fight infection, to prevent injury, and to heal more quickly.

Older Americans Act nutrition programs are cost-effective

- Cost of one month in a nursing home = 4 years' worth of meals.
- For every federal dollar spent on OAA programs, state and local contributions generate 3 more dollars.

Ensuring quality in Older Americans Act nutrition programs

- Ensure that qualified nutrition staff, including registered dietitian nutritionists, are included in the bill at all levels of the aging network.
- Include language that supports an evidence-based component that includes targeted nutrition screening, assessment, counseling and education.

Support the Re-authorization of the Older Americans Act

- Senate: Co-sponsor S.192, and call for a floor vote to re-authorize the Older Americans Act during its 50th anniversary year*.
- House: Support bill language similar to S. 192 in the House, and re-authorize the Older Americans Act during its 50th anniversary year*.

Share Your Story! Invite member of Congress to visit your program to see the importance of OAA nutrition programs in their community!

*50th Anniversary is July 14, 2015