



Area Agency on Aging of Dane County

Board of Directors

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10 April 2018

The Honorable Ron Johnson, U.S. Senator
328 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20510

Dear Senator Johnson:

On behalf of the Area Agency on Aging of Dane County's Board of Directors, we are writing in response to the final FY 2018 federal funding bill that passed Congress last month.

Specifically, the AAA Board is grateful for the increases provided to vital Older Americans Act (OAA) programs and services funded through the U.S. Administration on Aging and delivered locally by AAA of Dane County and our network of community providers. The increases to OAA Subtitles III B, C, D and E means that older adults will continue to receive in-home services, home-delivered and congregate meals, transportation, caregiver supports, evidence-based health and wellness programs, and other essential services that enable them to maintain their health and independence for as long as possible.

We are also pleased lawmakers rejected proposals to eliminate key federal programs that help low-income older adults meet their basic needs, find jobs to make ends meet, give back to their communities through volunteerism, receive one-on-one help understanding their Medicare and other benefits, and—most importantly—help them live independently at home and in the community.

Given the projected growth in the aging population, it is essential that we continue to increase funding for OAA and other aging programs to ensure that we keep the country's longstanding commitment to help its citizens live with dignity and independence at home and in their communities. The increases included in this funding bill represent the first significant step in that process, and we are grateful.

Sincerely,

Bill Clausius, Chair

cc: The Honorable Scott Walker, Governor, State of Wisconsin
Members, Dane County Board of Supervisors
The Honorable Joe Parisi, Dane County Executive
Ms. Lynn Green, Director, Dane County Department of Human Services