



Area Agency on Aging of Dane County

Board of Directors

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16 March 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, I am writing to express our concern regarding the President's Fiscal Year 2019 Budget Proposal and its potential impact on older adults in Dane County. The proposed cuts are appalling. If approved, this budget will have devastating consequences on elder programs that provide vital safety nets for our most vulnerable population. The President's proposed budget is an attack on elders—and is unconscionable.

The entire budget is unacceptable but of special concern are the following:

- An additional \$1 trillion cut to the Medicaid Program (2017-2026) and \$237 billion cut to Medicare;
- Estimated \$72 billion cut (over 10 years) to the Social Security Disability Insurance (SSDI) and Supplemental Security Income (SSI) programs;
- Elimination of the State Health Insurance Assistance Program (SHIP), which provides counselors who provide free, state specific assistance;
- Elimination of the Senior Community Service Employment Program (SCSEP), which helps low-income seniors find work;
- Elimination of Corporation for National and Community Service, and with it, Senior Corps, VISTA, and AmeriCorps programs;
- Elimination of state and community block grant programs--Social Services Block Grant, Community Service Block Grant, and Community Development Block Grant;
- Elimination of the Low-Income Home Energy Assistance program, which helps low-income households pay for heat and other utilities;
- Elimination of the Falls Prevention Program and Chronic Disease Self-Management Education Program;
- Elimination of the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP); which is designed to meet the unique nutritional needs of older adults;
- Cutting \$2 million of the Elder Justice Act (EJA) Program, which funds Adult Protective Services and Elder Justice Initiative; and
- Cutting \$213 billion over ten years from the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP).

I ask you to stand up for older adults and reject the proposed funding cuts and program eliminations that will have serious consequences to the people of Wisconsin.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Bill Clausius".

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