



COUNTY OF MENDOCINO

Board of Supervisors

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February 11, 2025

The Honorable Alex Padilla
331 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510

RE: Urgent Request to Reauthorize the Older Americans Act and Restore Funding to the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) of Lake and Mendocino Counties

Dear Senator Padilla,

The Mendocino County Board of Supervisors is writing to express our deep concern regarding the loss of federal funding to the Area Agency on Aging (AAA) of Lake and Mendocino Counties. We urge immediate action to reauthorize the Older Americans Act (OAA) and restore funding to critical senior programs. Without this funding, thousands of older adults in our community will be at serious risk of losing essential services that support their health, independence, and quality of life.

The Federal Continuing Resolution passed on December 20, 2024, did not include reauthorization of the OAA. As a result, Lake and Mendocino Counties face a nearly \$1 million shortfall for services from January 1, 2025, through June 30, 2025. For decades, the OAA has been a lifeline for seniors, ensuring access to:

- Meals on Wheels and Meal Programs: Providing nutritious meals to food-insecure seniors.
- Long-Term Care Ombudsman: Advocating for residents in long-term care facilities, protecting their rights, investigating complaints, and addressing quality of care issues.
- Adult Day Care: Offering licensed daycare for individuals with moderate to severe Alzheimer's disease, dementia, or other cognitive and mental impairments.
- Caregiver Support Programs: Assisting families who care for aging loved ones.

Last year, the AAA served 212,702 meals to seniors in Lake and Mendocino Counties and provided information and assistance to over 25,516 individuals in Mendocino County, where 17% of seniors live in poverty, which exceeds the state and national averages.

Prompt action is needed to reauthorize the OAA and restore funding to prevent harm to our senior community. We appreciate your leadership and urge you to safeguard the well-being of our aging population.

Sincerely,

John Haschak, Chair
Mendocino County Board of Supervisors

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