

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

April 27, 2022

The Honorable Rosa DeLauro
Chair, Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Services, Education,
and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
2358-B Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Tom Cole
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on Labor,
Health and Human Service, Education,
and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20003

The Honorable David E. Price
Chair, Subcommittee on
Transportation, and Housing and Urban
Development, and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
2358-A Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Mario Diaz-Balart
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on
Transportation, and Housing and Urban
Development, and Related Agencies
U.S. House of Representatives
1036 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, D.C. 20003

Dear Chair DeLauro, Ranking Member Cole, Chair Price, and Ranking Member Diaz-Balart:

Thank you for your continued support for our nation's families and seniors. As you begin your work on the Fiscal Year 2023 Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies and Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations bills, we urge you to increase funding for programs aimed at preventing falls among older adults.

According to the CDC, 36 million older Americans report a fall each year, leading to 3 million emergency room visits and 32,000 tragic deaths. These falls are not only painful and traumatizing for seniors and their families, they also incur tremendous financial losses. Falls among adults aged 65 and older result in \$50 billion in medical costs annually; \$38 billion paid by Medicare and Medicaid, and \$12 billion by private insurance or out-of-pocket. These falls may be largely prevented by addressing modifiable risk factors through coordinated federal efforts. Yet, our current investments in fall prevention are insufficient and siloed, and they pale in comparison to the price we pay on falls once they occur. **We can and must do better for our seniors and their families.**

Accordingly, we respectfully request that you make the following investments in your FY23 Appropriations bills:

1. Interagency Coordinating Committee on Healthy Aging and Age Friendly Communities

- **Account:** Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living, Aging and Disability Services
- **Description:** The *Supporting Older Americans Act of 2020* reauthorized the *Older Americans Act* (OAA) from 2020 until 2025. This law directs the Secretary of Health

and Human Services to modernize the Interagency Committee on Healthy Aging and Age Friendly Communities. While numerous federal agencies and programs support older Americans and aim to reduce falls, interagency coordination is critical to ensure these programs are effective and cohesive. Unfortunately, this Interagency Committee has yet to be funded.

- **Programmatic Request: We request a funding level of \$1 million for FY23.**
- **Report Language Request:** *Interagency Coordinating Committee on Healthy Aging and Age Friendly Communities—The Committee provides \$1 million for the coordination of healthy aging programs across HHS, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of Transportation, and other agencies as appropriate, with a focus on fall prevention programs, and with a goal of informing the 2025 White House Conference on Aging.*
- **FY22:** None

2. Research, Demonstration, and Evaluation Center for the Aging Network

- **Account:** Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living, Aging and Disability Services
- **Description:** The 2020 OAA Reauthorization also directed the Assistant Secretary of Aging to create a Research, Demonstration, and Evaluation Center for the Aging Network to coordinate research, evaluation, and demonstration projects at the Administration for Community Living (ACL), assess OAA programs and interventions, increase information on evidence-based programs, including falls-prevention and home modification research, assess the relationships between OAA programs and health outcomes, and promote partnerships among aging services, community-based organizations, and health providers. Unfortunately, this Center has yet to be funded.
- **Programmatic Request: We request a funding level of \$75 million for FY23.**
- **FY22:** None

3. Elderly Fall Prevention

- **Account:** Department of Health and Human Services, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Injury Prevention and Control
- **Description:** The CDC's Stopping Elderly Accidents, Deaths, and Injuries (STEADI) Program provides clinicians with the tools they need to screen and assess fall risks in older adult patients, including medications, balance and vision issues, loss of strength, and other fall risks, and provides interventions to mediate these risks. One New York health system saw a 60 percent reduction in falls after beginning this program.
- **Programmatic Request: We request a funding level of \$4.1 million for FY23.**
- **FY22:** \$2.05 million

4. ACL Falls Prevention

- **Account:** Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living, Aging and Disability Services Programs
- **Description:** This competitive grant program awards funds to domestic public and private nonprofit entities, state agencies, community-based organizations, universities, and tribal organizations, as well as the ACL National Falls Prevention

Resource Center. The purpose of this program is to bring to scale and sustain evidence-based falls prevention programs that have been proven to reduce falls, fear of falling, and fall-related injuries in older adults. This program has received level funding since FY14 despite increased demand due to our rapidly aging population. At most, resources have been provided to 31 states.

- **Programmatic Request: We request a funding level of \$10 million for FY23.**
- **FY22: \$5 million**

5. OAA Title III-D Preventive Health

- **Account:** Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living, Aging and Disability Services Programs
- **Description:** OAA Title III-D funding supports a variety of healthy aging programs aimed to reduce disease and injury among older adults, including fall prevention and home-modifications. Fall prevention includes evidence-based strategies and education to help older adults improve balance and strength, reduce fall risks in their homes, and know what to do in the event of a fall. The current funding is insufficient when stretched out among all 50 states, D.C., and the territories, as well as Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) and local service providers.
- **Programmatic Request: We request a funding level of \$62.7 million for FY23.**
- **FY22: \$31.339 million**

6. Aging Network Support Activities

- **Account:** Department of Health and Human Services, Administration for Community Living, Aging and Disability Services Programs
- **Description:** Aging Network Support resources invest in training and technical assistance, innovation and dissemination of best practices, and coordination of strategies and services throughout the Aging Network.
- **Programmatic Request: We request a funding level of \$54.8 million for FY23.**
- **FY22: \$27.446 million**

7. Aging-in-Place Home Modification Grants

- **Account:** Department of Housing and Urban Development, Office of Lead Hazard Control and Healthy Homes, Lead Hazard Reduction
- **Description:** This program assists nonprofit organizations, state and local governments, and public housing authorities in undertaking comprehensive programs that make safety and functional home modifications and limited repairs to meet the needs of low-income elderly homeowners. This enables low-income elderly persons and individuals with disabilities to remain in their homes by making modifications to reduce risk of falling, improve general safety, increase accessibility, and improve functional abilities. Home modifications allow older adults to remain in their homes safely rather than moving into congregate care facilities.
- **Programmatic Request: We request a funding level of \$30 million for FY23.**
- **FY22: \$15 million**

Once again, we thank you for your leadership on the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, and Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations bills, and we are eager to work with you on these requests.

Sincerely,



Lois Frankel
Member of Congress



Joseph D. Morelle
Member of Congress



Doris Matsui
Member of Congress



Suzanne Bonamici
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Josh Gottheimer
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Sheila Jackson Lee
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Ayanna Pressley
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