

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20510

January 30, 2020

The Honorable Donald J. Trump
The White House
1600 Pennsylvania Avenue
Washington, DC 20500

Dear Mr. President:

We write to draw your attention to the need for more resources for the home delivered meals and congregate meals programs under the Older Americans Act (OAA). As you develop your Fiscal Year (FY) 2021 Budget Proposal, we strongly urge you to include robust funding for the OAA programs, including home delivered meals and congregate meals in particular. These increased resources will be critical for Granite State Meals on Wheels programs and other meal providers who struggle to meet the growing demand.

We have been concerned by damaging budget cuts that you have proposed for OAA programs in recent years. For FY 2019, your administration called for a \$40 million reduction for the OAA congregate meals program and a \$19 million reduction for the OAA home delivered meals program, a cut of approximately 8 percent for each program. In FY 2020, your administration requested level funding for both programs.

Congress has repeatedly recognized the growing challenges for senior meal programs. Rather than slashing funding for these vital programs, over the past three years Congress provided a \$60 million increase for the congregate meal program and a \$39 million boost in funding for the home delivered meals program. These investments amount to a 13 percent increase in funding for the congregate meal program and a 17 percent increase in funding for the home delivered meals program.

To best meet the needs of an expanding aging population, we will need bipartisan commitment from Congress and your administration. As the appropriations process for FY 2021 unfolds, we encourage you to work with Congress to prioritize resources to programs under the Older Americans Act that are so vital to our communities.

Sincerely,



Jeanne Shaheen
United States Senator



Margaret Wood Hassan
United States Senator

Ann McLane Kuster

Ann McLane Kuster
Member of Congress

Chris Pappas

Chris Pappas
Member of Congress