



The Honorable Tim Walberg
Chairman
Committee on Education and the Workforce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

The Honorable Bobby Scott
Ranking Member
Committee on Education and the Workforce
U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, D.C. 20515

Dear Chairman Walberg and Ranking Member Scott:

On behalf of Argentum, the leading national association representing senior living communities and the nearly two million older adults our members serve, we urge this committee and the full U.S. House of Representatives to swiftly advance and **pass of the Older Americans Act (OAA) reauthorization, already unanimously passed by the U.S. Senate.** The Older Americans Act was last reauthorized in 2020 and its programs help millions of older Americans and their families remain healthy, engaged, and connected to their communities.

The members of Argentum operate senior living communities offering assisted living, independent living, continuing care, and memory care services. Along with its state partners, Argentum's membership represents approximately 75 percent of the professionally managed communities in the senior living industry. Senior living communities play a vital role in helping older adults maintain choice, independence, dignity, and quality of life while receiving the services and supports they need to age successfully.

The need to reauthorize the Older Americans Act has never been more urgent. The United States is experiencing an unprecedented demographic transformation, with more than 10,000 Americans turning 65 every day, and the population age 85 and older—the group most likely to require long-term services and supports—projected to more than double in the coming decades. As demand for aging services grows, so too does the need for a coordinated national strategy that promotes healthy aging, supports family caregivers, addresses social determinants of health, and helps older adults remain active and connected. Reauthorizing the Older Americans Act will ensure that critical programs continue to meet the needs of current and future generations of seniors.

Argentum strongly supports the Senate-passed reauthorization and its inclusion of several provisions that reflect important priorities for older adults and aging services providers.

First, we commend the legislation's support for a new **White House Conference on Aging.** As our nation confronts the challenges and opportunities of an aging population, a White House Conference would provide a critical forum to bring together policymakers, providers, advocates, researchers, family caregivers, and older adults to develop a comprehensive vision for aging policy in America. Such a conference would help identify innovative solutions to improve quality of life, strengthen care and service delivery systems, promote financial security, and advance healthy aging for decades to come.

Second, we support provisions that **encourage multigenerational engagement activities.** Connections between generations benefit older adults, younger Americans, and communities alike. Intergenerational programs foster purpose, reduce age-related stigma, strengthen social bonds, and create opportunities for meaningful engagement. As policymakers seek ways to support healthy aging, encouraging interactions between older adults and younger generations should remain an important national priority.



Third, Argentum strongly supports efforts to **promote socialization and combat isolation** among older Americans. Social isolation and loneliness are associated with significant health risks, including increased rates of depression, cognitive decline, chronic illness, and mortality. Programs that foster social engagement, community participation, and meaningful connections can improve health outcomes and help older adults maintain independence and well-being. As America ages, addressing isolation must be treated as a core component of public health and aging policy.

For more than sixty years, the Older Americans Act has served as the cornerstone of our nation's commitment to helping older adults age with dignity and independence. From nutrition and transportation services to caregiver support, health promotion activities, and programs combating isolation, the OAA helps millions of older Americans remain active members of their communities while reducing strain on families and public programs.

We appreciate the Committee's longstanding bipartisan commitment to improving the lives of older Americans and respectfully urge swift consideration and passage of the Older Americans Act reauthorization. The legislation represents an important opportunity to modernize aging policy, strengthen support systems for seniors and caregivers, and prepare our nation for the demographic realities ahead.

Thank you for your leadership and consideration.

Sincerely,

James Balda
President & CEO
Argentum