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**COUNTY OF SANTA BARBARA**

August 28, 2019

The Honorable Salud Carbajal  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representative Carbajal:

I am writing on behalf of the County of Santa Barbara in support of reauthorization of the Older Americans Act (OAA).

Enclosed for your information are letters that we have sent to the Education and Labor Committee requesting their support for enactment of legislation to continue and expand these programs before the current Older Americans Act expires on September 30. Funding and support for services that promote health and well-being, as well as support family and informal caregivers of seniors enhance the quality of life of all seniors, but particularly those who are low-income. Additional resources are needed beyond what the OAA currently provides to increase service capacity to meet the growing demand, not only for basic needs like food, transportation, and housing but also for workforce development such as geriatric specialization and caregiver support.

According to 2017 Census data there are over 67,000 seniors age 65 and older within the County of Santa Barbara (15 percent of the County's population). This number is expected to double by the year 2050 placing additional demands on a variety of health and human services programs. Key issues facing seniors within the County are in-home care, food, housing, transportation, as well as public assistance needs for those that live below the poverty level. It is critical to ensure that the programs and services that are needed to meet the needs of the growing population and low-income seniors are available.

Thank you for your support for the Older Americans Act.

Sincerely yours,

Don Gilchrest  
Washington Representative

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