

Capitol Hill Telephone Call Talking Points
Advocating for Older Americans Act funding and reauthorization
Emphasizing the Value of the Older Americans Act's programs and services

When Calling the Office:

Receptionist or person answering the phone:

Hi, my name is [YOUR NAME], and I'm a constituent of Representative/Senator [NAME], living in [CITY/STATE], ZIP code [#####]. I'm calling to express my strong support for funding the programs and services authorized by the Older Americans Act. Could I please speak to the staff member who works on health policy?

If no one is available:

That's okay—I'd like to leave a message. My name is [YOUR NAME], and I called on [DATE] at [TIME]. My phone number is [PHONE NUMBER]. I'm asking for a call back to discuss Older Americans Act funding and reauthorization of the Act, particularly its role in supporting older people. If possible, could you also share the appropriate staffer's email address so I can follow up directly?

When Speaking with a Health Policy Staff Member:

Hi [STAFFER'S NAME], thank you for speaking with me. My name is [YOUR NAME], and I live in [CITY/STATE], ZIP code [#####], in Representative/Senator [NAME]'s district. I'm a researcher in the field of [YOUR AREA OF RESEARCH], and I'm calling today to highlight the critical role of the programs and services authorized by the Older Americans Act in advancing health and well-being of older people. I'm also calling to encourage reauthorization of the Older Americans Act.

(Optional:) I'm also a [TITLE] at [UNIVERSITY/INSTITUTION].

How are you today?

Why the Older Americans Act matters:

The Older Americans Act (OAA) is a federal law that authorizes a wide array of social and nutrition services for older people. Enacted in 1965, it aims to help older Americans live independently in their homes and communities for as long as possible. The OAA establishes a national network of agencies and organizations to plan and deliver these services, including home and community-based care, nutrition programs, and caregiver support.

The act authorizes funding for various programs, including:

- Supportive Services: This includes services like in-home care, transportation, and home modification to help older people remain in their homes.
- Nutrition Services: The OAA funds congregate meals (served in community centers, houses of worship, or similar locations) and home-delivered meals.
- Caregiver Support: The act provides resources for family caregivers, including information, referrals, respite care, and support groups.
- Elder Abuse Prevention: The OAA funds programs to prevent and address elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.

My own research focuses on [BRIEFLY DESCRIBE YOUR RESEARCH], which contributes to a better understanding of how we can extend both **lifespan** and **healthspan**—ensuring more of us live not just longer, but more meaningful lives as we age.

The OAA establishes a national network of agencies to deliver these services:

- State Units on Aging (SUAs): These are state-level agencies that oversee the implementation of the OAA within their respective states.
 - Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs): These are local agencies that work directly with older people and their families to assess needs and connect them with appropriate services.
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The Research Center's Impact:

The OAA includes a Research, Demonstration, and Evaluation Center within the Aging Network. This center, established by the Supporting Older Americans Act of 2020, is designed to support the modernization and growth of aging services through research, demonstration projects, and evaluation of innovative practices. With research as a centerpiece, the Center aims to help the Aging Network demonstrate evidenced-based results of successful programs and scale them to meet the needs of a growing older adult population.

Our Request:

I urge [MEMBER NAME] to support increased funding and reauthorization of the Older Americans Act, along with strengthening the Research, Demonstration, and Evaluation Center. I also urge [MEMBER NAME] to authorize \$75 million annually for the Research, Demonstration, and Evaluation Center.

This investment sustains the essential programs and services that keep older Americans healthy, strengthens the economy, and advances evidence-based health and aging programs that address chronic diseases, such as diabetes prevention programming. Advancement of the reauthorization process for the Older Americans Act also helps reach this goal.

Closing:

Thank you for your time and your commitment to ensuring that funding and supporting the Older Americans Act remains a priority. I'd be happy to follow up with more details or materials—just let me know what would be most helpful.

Would you like a tailored one-pager or email follow-up version of this message to share with offices after your call?