

Congress of the United States

Washington, DC 20515

August 1, 2025

The Honorable Robert F. Kennedy, Jr.
Secretary
U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
Hubert H. Humphrey Building
200 Independence Avenue SW
Washington, DC 20201

Dear Secretary Kennedy,

We write to you with concern about the abrupt firings of Administration for Community Living (ACL) Regional Administrators. As you are well aware, ACL was formed thirteen years ago to support the needs of aging Americans and those with disabilities. In the U.S., there are over 11,000 people who turn 65 each day, and one in four adults live with a disability.¹ The population of aging Americans is rapidly growing and will continue increasing for decades. Now is not the time to dismantle this critical program that serves millions of Americans.

The work of ACL helps aging Americans remain healthier longer, reducing the strain on our healthcare system. By connecting older adults and those with disabilities to support systems, inclusive transportation, abuse prevention, resources for caregivers, and providing mental health tools, more people are able to live independently. Additionally, ACL oversees and carries out the *Older Americans Act (OAA)*, which was reauthorized by Congress in 2024. Through this law, nearly one million nutritious meals are served to seniors in need and their caregivers across the country every day.² The value and success of these programs are undeniable. It is unacceptable that this Administration is willing to play with the lives of the American people.

In the wake of the *One Big Beautiful Bill Act (OBBBA)*, which makes the largest cut to Medicaid in history, the services and resources provided by ACL are more important now than ever. Over 15 million people with disabilities rely on Medicaid for their healthcare coverage.³ These massive cuts strain our hospital systems and healthcare workers, hurting millions of aging Americans and individuals with disabilities. *OBBBA* also makes drastic cuts to the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), which supports more than 11 million adults over the age of 50.⁴ Without ACL, the resources needed to fill the gaps created by this detrimental law will be further limited, pulling the safety net out from millions of Americans.

We understand that the Administration plans to completely dismantle ACL and divide its remaining programs across multiple agencies in the name of efficiency. Despite this news, HHS has continued to release *OAA* formula grant funding, which we applaud, yet we do not understand how these actions align with recent firings of Regional Administrators and employees who implement these critical programs. We urge you to keep ACL intact, reinstate the Regional Administrators, and answer the following questions no later than September 2, 2025:

¹ <https://www.statnews.com/2025/04/17/administration-for-community-living-acl-hhs-reduction-in-force-congress/>

² <https://acl.gov/programs/health-wellness/nutrition-services>

³ <https://www.kff.org/medicaid/issue-brief/5-key-facts-about-medicaid-coverage-for-people-with-disabilities/>

⁴ <https://www.aarp.org/advocacy/qualify-for-snap-benefits/>

1. How many of the ten Regional Administrators have been fired?
2. If the Administration plans to reassign ACL programs to various other agencies, why weren't the Administrators reassigned to agencies to continue overseeing these important programs?
3. Which agency will ensure *OAA* formula grants continue without interruption if ACL is dismantled?
4. In the wake of cutting healthcare and nutrition assistance for millions of Americans, what is the Administration's plan to continue providing nutritious meals and support for our nation's aging Americans and people with disabilities?
5. How is HHS planning to ensure efficiency in program and grant award delivery with reduced staff capacity?


On May 5, 2025, you said, "We stand with our elders and individuals with disabilities — we don't abandon them," and ACL funding "directly invests in dignity, protects independence, and affirms every American's right to age with respect and community."⁵ Your recent actions do not reflect your empty promises.

We must work to ensure the American people are set up for success. Removing the supports and structures that help our most vulnerable populations thrive in their communities is unacceptable. We respectfully request that you allow ACL to continue existing, rehire the Regional Administrators and other employees who have been let go without reason, and prioritize the health and wellbeing of Americans with disabilities and seniors.

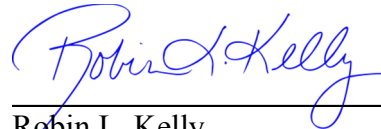
Sincerely,



Marilyn Strickland
Member of Congress



Jan Schakowsky
Member of Congress



Robin L. Kelly
Member of Congress



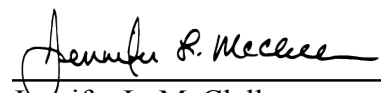
Seth Moulton
Member of Congress



Nikki Budzinski
Member of Congress



Marc A. Veasey
Member of Congress

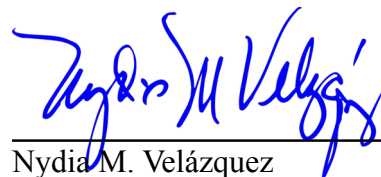


Jennifer L. McClellan
Member of Congress

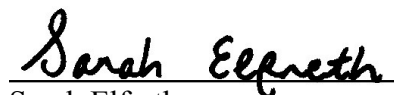
⁵ <https://www.hhs.gov/press-room/hhs-acl-grant-funding-older-americans-act.html>



Eleanor Holmes Norton
Member of Congress



Nydia M. Velázquez
Member of Congress



Sarah Elfreth
Member of Congress



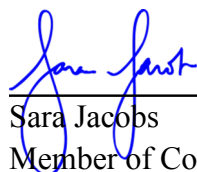
Ed Case
Member of Congress



Dwight Evans
Member of Congress



Julie Johnson
Member of Congress



Sara Jacobs
Member of Congress



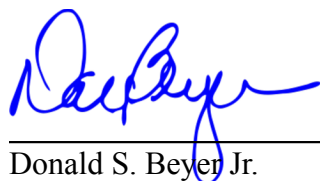
Terri A. Sewell
Member of Congress



Dina Titus
Member of Congress



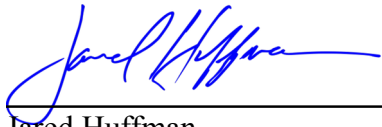
Sean Casten
Member of Congress



Donald S. Beyer Jr.
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Chrissy Houlahan
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Jared Huffman
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Jim Tokuda
Member of Congress



Paul Tonko
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