



Side-By-Side Comparison of House and Senate Older Americans Act Reauthorization Bills

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Section of OAA	HOUSE — H.R. 5293	SENATE — S. 3570	n4a Position
Title II <i>Definitions</i>			
Exploitation	New definition of exploitation	Follows House	Support
Disease prevention & health promotion	Changes definition to include “evidence-based,” expands examples of chronic diseases and adds to examples of health promotion activities: “falls prevention, physical activity, and improved nutrition through the consumption of a healthful diet and multi-vitamin-mineral supplementation.”	Changes definition to include “evidence-based”, expands examples of chronic diseases and adds to examples of health promotion activities: “falls prevention, physical activity, and improved nutrition.”	Prefer Senate version without multivitamin-mineral reference
Self-Neglect	Adds new definition of self-neglect	Follows House	Support
Aging & Disability Resource Centers	Adds definition of ADRCs	Does not address	AAAs should be recognized and their role reflected in the ADRC definition
Self-Directed Care	New definition of self-directed care	Very close to House language but AAA references slightly different	Prefer House’s definition as it shows more clearly the appropriate role of AAAs
Other Definitions	Adds new definitions of “at risk for institutional placement,” “Hispanic-serving institution” and “long-term care”	Follows House except LTC definition is slightly narrower	Prefer House’s LTC definition

<p>Title II <i>Functions of AoA</i></p> <p>Elder Abuse Prevention</p> <p>Benefits Enrollment</p> <p>Choices for Independence</p>	<p>Authorizes US Administration on Aging to carry out elder abuse prevention and services, offers details on training, best practices and data collection</p> <p>Directs AoA to consult and coordinate activities with CMS, to offer technical assistance for outreach and benefits enrollment assistance, and to create a National Center on Senior Benefits Outreach and Enrollment</p> <p>Weaves the principles of Choices into AoA's duties; "to promote the development and implementation of comprehensive, coordinated systems at Federal, State, and local levels for providing long-term care in home and community-based settings"</p>	<p>Follows House except creates an official Office of Elder Abuse Prevention and Services within AoA</p> <p>Follows House</p> <p>Follows House</p>	<p>Support; prefer Senate language</p> <p>Support</p> <p>Support; this approach to incorporating Choices into OAA reflects the existing aging network infrastructure and thus recognizes the key role AAAs play in the effort</p>
<p>Title II <i>Federal Agency Consultation</i></p>	<p>No significant changes</p>	<p>Creates a new interagency coordinating committee to coordinate aging issues across the federal government</p>	<p>Support Senate approach but would like to expand the list of agencies involved</p>

Title II <i>Evaluation</i>	Amends Sec. 206(g) to allow AoA to use up to one-half of one percent of funds appropriated under Title III for conducting evaluations	Follows House	Oppose unless Title III programs are held harmless until appropriations increase
Title III <i>Authorization of Appropriations</i>	Updates the authorizations through 2011 but does not amend any authorization levels	Updates the authorizations through 2011 and increases the authorized funding levels for the National Family Caregiver Support Program (Title III-E) to \$160 million in fiscal year 2007 and increasing that level by \$10 million each successive year to reach \$200 million in fiscal year 2011	n4a remains deeply disappointed that Congress did not consider raising authorized spending levels for <i>all</i> OAA programs, but we support the Senate's increases in NFCSP
Title III <i>Funding for AAA Assessment of Aging Population/Community Planning</i>	Does not address	Sec. 304(d)(1)(A) is amended to direct that should appropriations rise more than 10%, then "an amount equal to 1 percent of the State's allotment shall be used by [AAAs] in the State to carry out the [demographic and community planning] assessment [that both House and Senate bill's would encourage AAAs to include in their area plans]"	Strongly support Senate language
Title III <i>Organization (States)</i> Choices for Independence	Sec. 305. Weaves the principles of Choices into a State's duties "to promote the development and implementation of comprehensive, coordinated	Follows the House	Support

Targeted Populations	<p>systems at Federal, State, and local levels for providing long-term care in home and community-based settings”</p> <p>Sec. 305 amended to strike “with particular attention to low-income minority individuals and older individuals residing in rural areas” and replace with “with particular attention to low-income older individuals, including low-income minority older individuals, older individuals with limited English proficiency, and older individuals residing in rural areas”</p>	Follows the House	Support
Single-Agency State Exemption	Does not address	To address AoA’s desire to allow Puerto Rico to operate as a single planning and service area, the Senate adds this language to Sec. 305 (b) as (6): “Nothing in this section shall prevent the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico from designating, with the approval of [AoA], a single planning and service area to cover all the older individuals in the Commonwealth.”	Support this narrow exemption from the Sec. 305(b) rules which govern States’ responsibilities and authority over AAAs and PSAs
Title III <i>Area Plans</i>			
Choices for Independence	Weaves the principles of Choices into a AAA’s duties as it does in AoA and State plan sections, as well.	Follows House	Support

Emergencies/Disasters	Does not address	Adds language to Sec. 306 that requires area plans to “include information detailing how the [AAA] will coordinate activities, and develop long-range emergency plans, with local and State emergency response agencies, relief organizations, local and State governments, and any other institutions that have responsibility for disaster relief service delivery”	Support Senate language; n4a is working to get funding for this new responsibility of AAAs
Community Planning	Amends Sec. 306 to add two new subsections: (b)(1) allows the AAA to include in its area plan an assessment of how prepared the PSA is for any anticipated change in the number of older adults over the next 10 years; (b)(2) allows AAAs to develop recommendations to State and local government officials on what is needed to build the PSA’s capacity to meet the needs of older individuals across a wide-range of issues	Follows House but adds emergency preparedness to list of issues affecting older individuals in (b)(2)	Strongly support; Senate language preferred; n4a championed the inclusion of this community planning section in both bills
Targeted Populations	Makes references to targeted populations consistent with new language in Sec. 305 (this is true throughout the bill)	Follows House	Support
Mental Health	Inserts “including mental health services” or “mental health screening” wherever the terms “health screening” or “health services” appear in the Act, including in Sec. 306.	Follows House	Support

Use of Volunteers	Amends Sec. 306 (a)(6)(C) to add, under what the AAA must do in its area plan (iii): “make use of trained volunteers in providing direct services delivered elderly and disabled individuals needing such care, and, if possible, work in coordination with volunteer programs (including programs administered by the Corp. for National Service) designed to provide training, placement, and stipends for volunteers in community service settings.”	Follows House in intent, some word choice differences, corrects title of CNCS	
Title III <i>State Plans</i>			
Community Planning	Mirrors AAA language; encourages States to include demographic assessment in state plan	Follows House	
Emergencies/Disasters	Does not address	Mirrors AAA language on coordination of emergency preparedness plans	
ADRCs	Does not address in this section	Sec. 307(a) is amended to require States to implement an ADRC	Does not identify State Units on Aging or AAAs as the system for ADRC implementation

Title III <i>Nutrition Programs</i>			
Nutrition Services Incentive Program (NSIP)	Sec. 311. Converts NSIP into a cash only program, but does not, according to House Committee report language, prevent a State Unit on Aging "from reaching an agreement with another state agency to continue the purchase and distribution of commodities at a state level"	Allows for the provision to grantees of "bonus commodities" in addition to other commodities	
Voluntary Contributions	Amends Sec. 315 to add language on voluntary contributions that encourages donations from individuals with self-declared income above 125% of poverty and allows requested contribution levels to reflect the actual cost of services	Follows House except raises self-declared income level to 200% of poverty	Support; prefer Senate language
Multivitamin-mineral supplement	Amends Sec. 331 (congregate meals) to allow providers to distribute multivitamin-mineral supplements as an addition to a meal	Does not address	Oppose inclusion as unnecessary
Dietitians	Amends Sec. 339 to strengthen the role of registered dietitians in the planning of nutrition and food services at the State and local levels	Follows House, with some minor wording differences	
Nutrition Program Evaluation	Requires AoA to contract with the Institute of Medicine to conduct a study to evaluate OAA nutrition services	Follows House, with some minor wording differences	Support, although reference to multivitamin-minerals should be stripped from House version

Influenza & Other Vaccines Information	Encourages home-delivered meals providers to “provide information to homebound seniors on how to get an influenza vaccination in their local areas.”	Slight variation. Encourages home-delivered meals providers to provide clients with “medical information approved by health care professionals, such as informational brochures and information on how to get vaccines, including vaccines for influenza, pneumonia, and shingles, in the individuals’ communities.”	Support; encourage coordination with AAAs and local health departments
Title III <i>National Family Caregiver Support Program</i>	<p>Amends Sec. 372 to expand the definitions of eligible caregivers to include older adults caring for an adult child with a disability, a caregiver to a person of any age with Alzheimer’s, and grandparents over age 55 who are raising grandchildren (current law sets the minimum age at 60)</p> <p>Restores AoA’s ability to make grants for programs of national significance on caregiving, although the new section would be moved to Title IV, Sec. 411</p>	<p>Amends Sec. 372 to expand the definitions of eligible caregivers to include older adults caring for an adult child “with mental retardation or a related developmental disability,” caregivers of an “individual with Alzheimer’s disease or a related disorder...who is 50 years of age or older,” grandparents over age 55 who are raising grandchildren; also adds “adoption” as one of the ways a grandparent may be related to their care recipient</p> <p>Follows House</p>	<p>Support; prefer Senate language</p> <p>Support, but have recommended some language changes</p>

Title IV <i>Community Planning</i>	Amends Sec. 411 to authorize AoA to make grants for “planning activities to prepare communities for the aging of the population, which include— (A) efforts to assess the aging population; (B) activities to coordinate the activities of State and local agencies in order to meet the needs of older individuals; and (C) training and technical assistance to support States, area agencies on aging, and tribal organizations receiving a grant under Title VI, engage in community planning activities...”	Follows House, with minor wording differences	Strongly support; n4a championed the inclusion of this community planning grant opportunity in both bills
Title IV <i>Community Innovations for Aging in Place</i>	Does not address	Creates a new Sec. 422 that establishes a program to support community innovations for aging in place; grants would be made to AAAs and other entities (such as Naturally Occurring Retirement Communities) that coordinate comprehensive health and social services in close proximity to locations where large concentrations of older adults have aged in place and resided.	Support Senate language, but would like several wording changes that would make clearer the relationship between grantees and the local AAA

<p>Title IV <i>Technical Assistance to Improve Senior Transportation</i></p>	<p>Does not address</p>	<p>Amends Sec. 416 by authorizing new grants to non-profit organizations to improve transportation services for older individuals.</p> <p>Grants are intended to fund demonstration projects or technical assistance to assist local transit providers, AAAs and other groups to encourage and facilitate coordinated transportation services and resources. Grantees may carry out specific activities including: developing innovative approaches for improving access by older adults to transportation services including volunteer driver programs and economically sustainable transportation programs; preparing information on transportation options; developing models and best practices and providing ongoing technical assistance to agencies under Title III and assisting in coordination of transportation services; and providing special services to link seniors to transportation services not provided under Title III.</p>	<p>Strongly support; n4a championed additional resources for coordination of transportation services</p>
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Title IV <i>Civic Engagement</i>	Does not address	<p>Amends Sec. 417 by authorizing new grants to support a number of efforts to promote multigenerational activities and civic engagement activities.</p> <p>Grant funds awarded to: conduct research on the benefits of engaging older individuals paid and unpaid positions with public and non-profit organizations; develop national agenda and blueprint on civic engagement activities to increase community services; and carry out demonstration projects to coordinate multigenerational activities.</p>	Support
Title IV <i>Mental Health, Multidisciplinary Centers</i>	Amends Sec. 419 by adding new language requiring centers to collect information on best practices in long-term care service delivery, housing and transportation. Additionally, requires that centers provide training and technical assistance to support community-based mental health services to older individuals.	<p>Amends Sec. 419 by authorizing new grants to States on a competitive basis for the development and operation of systems for the delivery of mental health screening and treatment services for older individuals.</p> <p>Grants would support programs to: increase public awareness regarding the benefits of prevention and treatment of mental disorders in older individuals; reduce the stigma associated with mental disorders and other barriers to diagnosis and treatment of the disorders; and reduce age-</p>	Support; n4a is pleased that the Senate bill requires State grant funds to be allocated to AAAs to carry out and coordinate community-based mental health initiatives

		<p>related prejudice and discrimination regarding mental disorders in older individuals.</p> <p>State agencies that receive funds through a grant are required to allocate the funds to AAAs to carry out the programs.</p>	
<p>Title IV <i>Choices for Independence Demonstration</i></p>	<p>Does not include the Choices for Independence demonstration program under Title IV.</p>	<p>Creates new Sec. 423, which authorizes a new demonstration program based on AoA's proposal to initiate grants to promote a long-term care system where services are available in home and community settings and where individuals have choice and control over the long-term care services they receive.</p> <p>Demonstration projects funded under this provision would be required to integrate in their long-term care systems efforts to carry out: 1) public education activities to encourage long-term care planning; 2) establish Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRCs); 3) community-level evidence-based prevention programs and related efforts to assist older adults and their caregivers in making behavioral changes to reduce the risk of disease and disability; and 4) consumer-</p>	<p>n4a has raised concerns with the Choices for Independence program due to a lack of a clear role for AAAs under the new demonstration grants.</p> <p>We are working with House and Senate staff to ensure that the AAAs can take full advantage of this new program and potential source of grant funding.</p>

		directed long-term care services to individual at high risk of placement in institutional care settings. The projects would be funded under a 75/25 percent federal/state share.	
Title V <i>Senior Community Service Employment Program</i>	Amends the title of Title V: Sec. 501. Older American Community Service Employment-Based Training Program.	Does not address	n4a believes that the House and Senate bills have taken a balanced approach to changes under the SCSEP. However, n4a prefers the Senate bill and its provisions, which more strongly reinforce the importance of community service employment training.
Community Service Hours	Amends Sec. 502: establishes that not less than 50 percent of training hours (in the aggregate) be community service employment-based training in each program year.	Does not address	
Participant Time Limit	Establishes a 24-month <i>aggregate</i> time limit on participation and limits any individual worker to no more than 48 months.	Amends Sec. 502 by establishing a 36-month aggregate time limit on participation in the SCSEP with an exception for 20 percent of project participants. Grantees are required to give priority to certain individuals including participants 65 years or older and individuals with specified barriers to employment (including disability; limited English proficiency or literacy skills; residence in rural areas or areas of high unemployment; homelessness and failure to find employment after utilizing services under WIA).	

Administrative Expenses	Increases the amount of grant funds that can be used for administrative expenses. Reduces the amount of funds that must be used to pay wages and benefits for participants from not less than 75 percent to 65 percent.	Does not address	
Community Service Priority		Includes a sense of the Senate recognizing the integral nature of community service positions under the SCSEP and how placing older individuals in community services positions benefits both the individuals and the community.	
Performance	Amends Sec. 513 by adding to the adjustments allowed when considering performance changes in Federal, State, or local minimum wage requirements.	Amends Sec. 513, authorizing the Secretary to establish and implement performance measures after consultation with the Assistant Secretary no later than 1 year after enactment. Adds to the adjustments allowed when considering performance the amount of rural counties served (over 60 percent) and areas comprising a difficult to serve territory due to economic factors.	
Unsubsidized Employment	Sets new minimum percentages for entry into unsubsidized employment incrementally increasing the percentage from its current level of not less than 20 percent to 22 percent in fiscal	Does not address	

Core Indicators	<p>year 2007, 24 percent in 2008, 26 percent in 2009, 28 percent in 2010 and 30 percent in 2011.</p> <p>Amends the core indicators of performance to include: 1) entry into subsidized employment; 2) retention in unsubsidized employment for 6 months; 3) earnings and 4) hours (in the aggregate) of community service employment-based training.</p>	Does not address	
Competitive Requirements	<p>Amends Sec. 514, authorizing the Secretary to award grants to carry out projects for a period of three years through a competitive process. Authorizes the Secretary to award as many as two successive one-year continuations beyond the three-year award, providing the grantee satisfies all requirements under Sec. 513.</p>	Amends Sec. 514, authorizing the Secretary to award grants to carry out projects for a four-year period through a competitive process.	
Title VI <i>Native American Aging Programs</i>	<p>Amends Sec. 643, Native American Caregiver Support Program, updating the authorized funding years for fiscal years 2007 through 2011 at "such sums as may be necessary."</p>	<p>Amends Sec. 643 updating the authorized funding years to start with 2007 and updates authorized appropriations to \$6.5 million in 2007, \$7 million in 2008, \$7.5 million in 2009, \$8 million in 2010 and \$8.5 million in 2011.</p>	Strongly support Senate language

<p>Title VII <i>Elder Abuse Prevention</i></p> <p>Financial Literacy</p> <p>Grants</p> <p>Data Collection</p>	<p>Amends Sec. 721 authorizing the use of Title VII funds to carry out public education and outreach to promote financial literacy and prevent identity theft and financial exploitation of older individuals.</p>	<p>Amends Sec. 721 authorizing the use of Title VII funds to carry out public education and outreach to promote financial literacy and prevent identity theft and financial exploitation of older individuals.</p> <p>Creates new Sec. 752, entitled "State and Tribal Grants To Strengthen Long-Term Care And Provide Assistance For Elder Justice Programs." Authorizes grants to States and Indian tribes to strengthen long-term care and provide assistance for elder justice programs. Provides for the use of funds for a number of elder justice activities including: elder abuse prevention and detection; safe haven models; case review and assistance; volunteer programs; multidisciplinary elder justice activities; programs to address underserved populations of elders; and others.</p> <p>Creates new Sec. 753, authorizing grants to improve, streamline, and promote uniform collection of national data on elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation.</p>	<p>Strongly support Senate language. n4a, as one of the founding members of the Elder Justice Coalition, has been a strong supporter of efforts to enhance elder justice activities on a comprehensive nationwide basis.</p>
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