

Dear [Honorable LAST NAME]:

I am writing to express my agency's concern about the recent reorganization of the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) and the potential negative impacts on the older adults, people with disabilities and caregivers whom we serve every day.

Meals on Wheels of Ocean County serves 260,000 meals a year and provides food security, daily socialization and wellness and safety checks to over 1,700 frail and vulnerable older adults. As our elected representative we need you to act NOW to ensure all funding and services remain intact.

To deliver these essential services in our community, Meals on Wheels of Ocean County relies upon a bedrock of federal funding through the Older Americans Act (OAA). We are concerned that the HHS agency responsible for supporting and funding our local work, the U.S. Administration for Community Living (ACL), has been dismantled and its staff halved.

Our nation is aging at a historic rate and doing so rapidly. We cannot afford to reduce access to any aging services or destabilize community efforts to support older Americans. Any reduction in access would ultimately create situations in which older Americans are hungrier, less healthy, less safe and less independent—and their family caregivers are more burdened and stressed.

While we hope our worst fears are unfounded, we wanted to draw your attention to these major changes and how they may affect your constituents who benefit from these critical in-home, nutrition, transportation, case management, elder rights and caregiver supports. If you can provide any additional information on how the changes at HHS may affect our ability to successfully plan, develop and deliver OAA and other federally supported aging services, we would appreciate your response.

Sincerely,

[INCLUDE FULL CONTACT INFORMATION FOR YOU AND YOUR AGENCY]