

JUSTICE IN AGING

FIGHTING SENIOR POVERTY THROUGH LAW

October 4, 2017

The Honorable Paul Ryan
Speaker, U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi
Minority Leader, U.S. House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

RE: House FY 2018 Budget Resolution

Dear Speaker Ryan and Minority Leader Pelosi:

Justice in Aging is writing to oppose the House's FY 2018 budget resolution (H. Con. Res. 71) because it calls for massive cuts to Medicaid and other critical programs and would endanger the health and economic security of low-income older Americans. We urge you to reject this budget proposal and work in a bipartisan manner to build a budget framework that prioritizes the well-being of all Americans, especially older adults with limited income and resources.

Justice in Aging is an advocacy organization with the mission of improving the lives of low-income older adults. We have decades of experience with Medicaid, Medicare, and Social Security, with a focus on the needs of low-income individuals who are eligible for these programs.

The proposed budget resolution endangers the millions of older adults who already live on meager incomes and struggle to pay their rent, buy food, and meet their health needs. Our greatest concern is that it would cut Medicaid by over \$1 trillion and leave millions of low-income older adults without the health and long-term care services and supports they desperately need. The budget further imperils seniors' health care by calling for \$487 billion in Medicare cuts that would end the Medicare coverage guarantee, impose means testing, raise the eligibility age, and increase cost sharing.

This budget slashes non-defense discretionary program funding by \$1.3 trillion and calls for historic cuts to anti-poverty programs that provide an array of vital services to older adults including the Legal Services Corporation, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP), the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP), Social Service Block Grants, and Community Development Block Grants. All of these cuts have a cumulative negative impact on the health and economic security of older adults, people with disabilities, and their families.

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We urge you to reject this budget and any proposal that fails to safeguard critical programs like Medicaid, Medicare and Social Security. We call on Congress to prioritize the millions of older adults and their families who are struggling, and ensure that older Americans can retire with dignity.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "K. Prindiville". The signature is written in a cursive, slightly slanted style.

Kevin Prindiville
Executive Director
Justice in Aging