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**Reauthorizing and preserving the integrity of the Older Americans Act**

- 1 WHEREAS in 1994, Older Americans Act (OAA) programs provided over 230 million meals, 40 million rides, 12 million responses for information and referral, 1 million care visits, and 1 million legal counseling sessions to older persons who are at risk of losing their independence;
- 2 WHEREAS in 1995, the OAA celebrates 30 years of funding programs that have effectively reached out to older persons with the greatest social and economic needs;
- 3 WHEREAS the aging network, comprised of the Administration on Aging, State units on aging, area agencies on aging, local service providers, and older adults, has developed a cost-effective, nationwide system to respond to the diverse needs of older persons;
- 4 WHEREAS programs designed for more able older adults must increasingly rely on financial support from local communities, private individuals, families, and corporate sponsors;
- 5 WHEREAS the number of financially independent, self-reliant elderly continues to grow;
- 6 WHEREAS each State, territory, and local community has a unique demographic composition and related concerns; and
- 7 WHEREAS the number of minority older Americans and their corresponding service needs are rising exponentially;

***THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the 1995 White House Conference on Aging to support policies that:***

- 8 Improve targeting at all levels to serve those with the greatest economic and social needs, while sustaining the obligation of the Congress to programs for minorities, and in particular Native Americans and Hawaiians;
- 9 Allow States to develop intrastate funding formulas that address unique demographic factors and provide increased flexibility for States and local communities to design and implement service systems;

- 10 Preserve and strengthen the existing aging network including the Administration on Aging, State and area agencies, and local service providers to ensure a seamless continuum of quality services which includes enhancing the nutrition programs that provide meals and other nutrition services to older Americans, home and community-based services (including but not limited to care management, senior centers, in-home services, assisted living, and mental health), advocacy and elder rights protection, health promotion, transportation, and volunteerism; building upon the success of the Senior Community Service Employment Program by preserving its unique structure and goals, including national sponsors and State and local providers; strengthening community focal points or facilities to encourage the maximum co-location or coordination of comprehensive services, giving special consideration to multi-purpose senior centers;
- 11 Heighten the sensitivity of the aging network to the needs of minority communities;
- 12 Safeguard the OAA and ensure that aging services currently funded under the Act remain together and serve diverse populations through effective programs;
- 13 Reauthorize the OAA, including the Federal Council on Aging, for at least three years; increase appropriations for all the OAA titles to match the rise in the older population, especially the very old; increase support for titles of the OAA which serve older persons in community-based, life-enhancing activities such as senior centers and which fund vital research, training and senior employment programs, while meeting the needs of all older Americans, regardless of income;
- 14 Continue a Federal set-aside and increase funding within the OAA for tribal governments;
- 15 Build upon the strengths of the aging network to provide access to and coordination of services at the local level, which promote the greatest functional independence for older Americans;
- 16 Oppose any attempt to convert the OAA or programs into block grants;
- 17 Reaffirm Title IV OAA funding for training, education, and research directly related to services and programs provided by the OAA;
- 18 Designate and fund the next White House Conference on Aging for the year 2005.