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Preserving advocacy functions under the Older Americans Act

- 1 WHEREAS the Older Americans Act (OAA) has supported advocacy efforts by and on behalf of older Americans;
- 2 WHEREAS the OAA has led to the establishment of advocacy services at the local level, including legal services, ombudsman and elder rights programs;
- 3 WHEREAS the aging network has effectively supported programs that serve intergenerational populations; and
- 4 WHEREAS older persons critically need protection against abuse, neglect, and exploitation;

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

- 5 Preserve the OAA's focus on protecting the rights of vulnerable older people;
- 6 Expand the elder rights portions of the OAA's Title VII (i.e., ombudsman program, legal assistance, elder abuse prevention, and insurance and benefits assistance) with adequate funding;
- 7 Emphasize the importance of empowering older persons and their caregivers to advocate on their own behalf to the extent possible for individual services as well as for improved delivery systems to meet the needs of older persons and their families;
- 8 Increase the OAA's emphasis on self-directed care, encouraging and supporting independence and autonomy;
- 9 Reinforce the responsibility of the aging network, including the Administration on Aging, State and area agencies on aging, and service providers, to advocate on behalf of older persons on all issues which impact older persons and their families.