



SR0618

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SENATE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, 2015 marks the 50th anniversary of the enactment of the Older Americans Act of 1965; during the past 50 years, the implementation of the Older Americans Act of 1965 has contributed to the economic well-being of millions of older Americans and has improved the quality of life for those individuals; and

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WHEREAS, One of the key elements contributing to the successful implementation of the Older Americans Act of 1965 has been the establishment of an aging network composed of local area agencies on aging, providers of congregate and home-delivered nutrition, and many other community service providers; and

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WHEREAS, The United States Department of Health and Human Services' Administration on Aging was created by the Older Americans Act of 1965; the agency has been empowered to act as an effective advocate for the concerns and needs of older individuals; and

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WHEREAS, The Older Americans Act of 1965 serves as a model for the development of community-based services, including services that provide alternatives to the institutionalization of older individuals; and

1 WHEREAS, Some of the programs authorized under the Older
2 Americans Act of 1965 were created to address the specific
3 concerns of those older Americans with the greatest social and
4 economic needs, especially minority older Americans; and

5 WHEREAS, Many services under the Older Americans Act of
6 1965, including long-term care ombudsman and legal services
7 providers, have acted as powerful advocates for older
8 individuals; and

9 WHEREAS, Services authorized under the Older Americans Act
10 of 1965 have also provided important part-time community
11 service employment opportunities for low-income older
12 individuals; and

13 WHEREAS, Many older individuals, and those who serve them,
14 have benefited greatly from the research, training, and
15 education that programs established under the Older Americans
16 Act of 1965 have provided; and

17 WHEREAS, During Fiscal Year 2015, Illinois Area Agencies on
18 Aging will serve an estimated 515,700 persons 60 and over,
19 accounting for 22% of the 2.3 million seniors in Illinois; the
20 agencies will also develop and coordinate comprehensive
21 systems of home and community-based services to enable older

1 adults with chronic illnesses and disabilities to live in the
2 least restrictive setting and avoid unnecessary hospital
3 readmissions and placements in long term care facilities; and

4 WHEREAS, Thirteen Area Agencies on Aging in Illinois
5 collaborate with 179 provider agencies to provide a myriad of
6 home and community-based services for older adults and their
7 caregivers, including information and assistance for older
8 adults to help them make informed decisions about programs,
9 benefits, and services and live independently for as long as
10 possible, transportation programs, in-home services,
11 home-delivered meals, congregate meals, Multi-Purpose Senior
12 Centers, recreation programs, legal assistance, health
13 promotion and disease prevention, and evidence-based health
14 promotion programs; and

15 WHEREAS, In recognition of the changing needs of a rapidly
16 aging society, the Older Americans Act of 1965 has been
17 periodically amended and reauthorized; and

18 WHEREAS, The Older Americans Act of 1965 served as the
19 foundation for an effective human services policy for millions
20 of Americans as the United States entered the 21st century;
21 therefore, be it

22 RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-NINTH GENERAL

1 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that we affirm our support
2 for the Older Americans Act of 1965 and the primary goals of
3 the Act of providing services to maintain the dignity of older
4 Illinoisans and promoting the independence of those
5 individuals; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That we urge Congress to reauthorize the Older
7 Americans Act of 1965 without delay and with adequate funding
8 to reflect the growing populations of Americans who benefit
9 from the Act's programs and services; and be it further

10 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be
11 delivered to the President and Vice President of the United
12 States, the Speaker of the United States House of
13 Representatives, the Majority Leader of the United States
14 Senate, and the members of the Illinois congressional
15 delegation.