



WASHINGTON UPDATE

JULY 2015

Older Americans Act Reauthorization Passes Senate

On Thursday, July 16, S. 192, the bipartisan Older Americans Act Reauthorization of 2015 (OAA) passed the Senate via unanimous voice vote.

The OAA is more than four years late for reauthorization. The Act recently celebrated its 50th anniversary: President Lyndon B. Johnson signed it into law on July 14, 1965.

The OAA reauthorization bill now moves to the House for consideration, where the Education and the Workforce Committee may choose to take up the Senate bill or pass a different bill, which would then need to be reconciled with the Senate bill. Either way, action is unlikely until after the August recess.

BRIA President and CEO Selected as Delegate to White House Conference on Aging

Richard Browdie, President and CEO of the Benjamin Rose Institute on Aging, was selected as a delegate to the 2015 White House Conference on Aging. Browdie was one of only 200 delegates from around the country to receive an invitation to the WHCoA held in Washington, DC on July 13, 2015.

The day-long WHCoA featured panel discussions on caregiving, financial security, healthy aging, elder justice and technology. President Barack Obama spoke during the morning session.

“It is an honor to be selected as a delegate to the White House Conference on Aging,” said Browdie. “America faces many issues that result from the growing presence of older people in our increasingly diverse nation. In some ways, our society will have new assets we need to learn to engage. In other ways, our burdens to provide care may grow. This is an opportunity to contribute to the dialogue nationally, and at the same time assure that the needs of Northeast Ohio’s older adults and caregivers are considered as a part of the national discussion.”

The White House has held a Conference on Aging each decade since the 1960s to identify and advance actions to improve the quality of life of older Americans. This year is significant as 2015 marks the 50th anniversary of Medicare, Medicaid, and the Older Americans Act, as well as the 80th anniversary of Social Security.

Older Americans Act by the Numbers

In celebration of the OAA's 50th anniversary, the Administration for Community Living (ACL) released some OAA statistics. Over the last five years, the OAA has provided:

- Over 130 million rides to doctors' offices, grocery stores, and other essential places
- More than 1 billion meals
- Over 60 million hours of homemaker services
- Almost 248 million hours of community service

For a detailed infographic from ACL with even more numbers, visit acl.gov.

Contact Us

We welcome your feedback!
Please share questions, suggestions or concerns.

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White House Conference on Aging Held July 13

Many New Public-Private Initiatives Announced for Older Adults

The White House Conference on Aging (WHCoA), held Monday, July 13, in Washington, DC, was a day-long series of announcements, discussions and presentations from the Obama administration.

Benjamin Rose President & CEO Richard Browdie was among the 200 delegates invited to participate in the WHCoA.

Some of the announcements made at the WHCoA about initiatives for older Americans were:

- The launch of Aging.gov as a "one-stop shop" website for older adults and their caregivers and families to access federal resources.
- A new proposed rule from the U.S. Department of Agriculture to increase accessibility to nutrition for homebound, older Americans and people with disabilities by enabling Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) benefits to be used for Meals on Wheels.
- The U.S. Department of Transportation will launch the National Aging and Disability Transportation Center in fall 2015. This \$2.5 million investment will provide technical assistance to improve the availability and accessibility of transportation options that serve the needs of people with disabilities, seniors and caregivers.
- The Surgeon General joined with the YMCA in issuing a challenge to the 850 YMCA associations across the country to host intergenerational physical activity events during the first week of August to promote opportunities for young and older Americans to be active together.
- The U.S. Department of Justice is committing to enroll and train prosecutors from all 50 states to effectively prosecute elder abuse and financial exploitation by 2017.

President Obama became the first president to discuss elder abuse in public in a speech at this Conference. The President and Secretary Sylvia Burwell in their speeches to the Conference also pledged support for reauthorizing the Older Americans Act.