

January 23, 2015

The Honorable Gilbert Cedillo  
Councilmember, District 1  
200 N. Spring Street, # 470  
Los Angeles, CA 90012

Dear Councilmember Cedillo,

On behalf of the tens of thousands of older adults benefiting from the senior services network in Los Angeles, I am writing to request your assistance to preserve funding for Evidence Based Health and Wellness Programs (EBP). These programs are essential in our efforts to keep seniors healthy and as contributing members of our community.

It is our understanding that more than \$300,000 of Community Development Block Grant funding and \$225,000 of General Funds earmarked for EBPs are in jeopardy, as the Housing, Community and Economic Development Committee reviews allocations for next year.

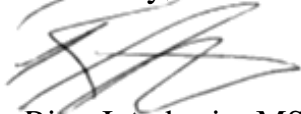
These scientifically proven health education programs are essential to the Los Angeles Aging Network's strategy to help seniors manage and overcome debilitating chronic conditions and maintain their vitality. Programs offered include: Chronic disease self-management, arthritis exercise, fall prevention, medication reconciliation, diabetes self-management, and other relevant topics. In addition to the individual and community health benefits, these programs result in significant healthcare cost savings by reducing unnecessary hospitalizations, institutionalization and medication misuse. Last year alone, more than 4,000 seniors participated in Evidence Based Programs at senior service organizations throughout the City of Los Angeles. The demand for these classes continues to grow.

Please collaborate with your City Council colleagues to ensure that adequate

funding is identified to preserve Evidence Based Programs in Los Angeles and sustain them in the future.

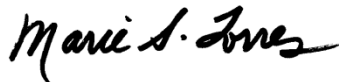
Leaders of the Los Angeles aging network and the seniors throughout the city, join me in bringing this urgent need for action to your attention. This modest investment in Los Angeles' vulnerable aging adults will not only benefit them, but our City at large.

Sincerely,

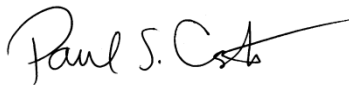


**Rigo J. Saborio, MSG**  
President/CEO, St. Barnabas Senior Services  
Chair, The Los Angeles Aging Advocacy Coalition

cc: Arturo Chavez  
Conrado Terrazas



**Marie Torres, Ph.D.**  
Senior VP, Government Relations  
AltaMed



**Paul S. Castro**  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles

*Electronic Signature*

**June Simmons**  
President/CEO,  
Partners in Care Foundation



**Susan Galeas**  
President/CEO,  
Alzheimer's Association,  
California Southland Chapter



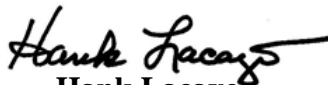
**E. Steven Voss**  
President/CEO,  
International Institute of Los Angeles



**Timothy Watkins**  
President/CEO  
Watts Labor Community Action Committee



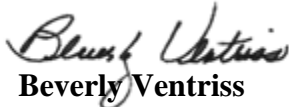
**Mike Murase**  
Director of Service Programs,  
Little Tokyo Services



**Hank Lacayo**  
State President,  
Congress of California Seniors



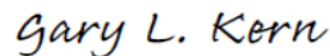
**Chantal Denny**  
Director,  
Angelus Plaza Senior Activity Center



**Beverly Ventriss**  
Chief Executive Officer,  
Valley Interfaith Council

*Electronic Signature*

**Eva Goetz**  
Chief Executive Officer,  
OneGeneration Senior MPC



**Gary Kern**  
Executive Director,  
Wilmington Jaycees Foundation MPC



**Kevin Prindeville**  
Executive Director  
National Senior Citizens Law Center

**The Los Angeles Area Aging Coalition (LAAAC)** was established in December 2009 to cultivate and advance a supportive environment for advocacy as a powerful and proactive tool to unify the aging service network. LAAAC is managed by St. Barnabas Senior Services, and is part of The SCAN Foundation's Community of Constituents initiative, building a statewide movement to transform the system of care so that all Californians can age with dignity, choice and independence.