

RESOLUTION

WHEREAS, any official position of the City of Los Angeles with respect to legislation, rules, regulations or policies proposed to or pending before a local, state or federal governmental body or agency must have first been adopted in the form of a Resolution by the City Council with the concurrence of the Mayor; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Aging relies on various sources, including federal grants such as Older Americans Act (OAA) funds to provide the City's senior population with services to improve their quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the OAA, originally enacted in 1965, provides community services and is considered to be the main provider of social and nutrition services for the elderly, and a three-year reauthorization of the OAA was signed into law by President Barack Obama in April 2016; and

WHEREAS, while many OAA programs are critical to the well-being of seniors, funding for most of them has decreased by more than 17% from 2010-2014 while the US population of those 75 and older increased by 10 percent, from about 16.4 million to 18.2 million; and

WHEREAS, the reauthorization language only ensures that OAA funding to affected states will not be cut by more than 1% a year and does nothing to address the reductions sustained over several years due to congressional cuts and the arbitrary impacts of the budget sequestration enacted in 2011 that went into effect in 2013; and

WHEREAS, the United States Senate is currently proposing the elimination of the State Health Insurance Assistance Programs (SHIPs) that fund the local Health Insurance Counseling Advocacy Program (HICAP) to provide seniors and family caregivers with assistance in understanding Medicare, comparing coverage options, appealing denials, applying for financial assistance, and navigating increasingly complex Medicare benefits; and

WHEREAS, the United States Senate is currently proposing a \$34 Million reduction, which is almost 8% of the Senior Community Services Employment Program (SCSEP) budget, and such a cut will negatively impact low income seniors whose lack of current job market skills make employment extremely difficult for the 137 low income seniors in the program who would be affected by the loss in funding; and

WHEREAS, Congress has the ability to restore funding to these and many other crucial OAA programs to serve the growing population of seniors in need of such services;

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, with the concurrence of the Mayor, that by the adoption of this Resolution the City of Los Angeles hereby includes in its 2015-2016 Federal Legislative Program SPONSORSHIP and/or SUPPORT of legislation and/or any administrative action that would reinstate Older Americans Act funding that has been reduced as a result of direct cuts or sequestration.

PRESENTED BY: Paul Koretz  
PAUL KORETZ, Councilmember, Fifth District

SECONDED BY: Dee S

  
AUG 05 2016

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