Insert Date

PA State Representative

Dallas Kephart

53-A East Wing
PO Box 202073

Harrisburg PA 17120-2073

Dear Representative, Kephart,

On behalf of Mature Resources Area Agency on Aging, I would like to reach out to ask for your help in funding services for older Pennsylvanians via our AAA. Older adults across Pennsylvania are a vital part of our communities, and as the aging population continues to grow, many residents face challenges in accessing the critical services they need to live independently. The 52 Area Agencies on Aging (AAAs) provide a coordinated network of care, implementing statewide initiatives designed to help older Pennsylvanians maintain their independence and receive necessary assistance. However, due to various factors, including population growth, inflation, and the conclusion of the American Rescue Plan Act (ARPA), many AAA programs are at risk.

We are grateful for the proposed $20 million Governor Shapiro included in his Executive Budget. While this funding is crucial, we see an opportunity for even greater support. **To adequately meet the needs of older Pennsylvanians, we urge the inclusion of an additional $105 million investment ($392,848,000 total) in PENNCARE.**

Without the requested funds, AAAs throughout Pennsylvania will be forced to close approximately 40 senior centers, eliminate around 100 programs, and reduce staff hours or leave positions vacant. The programs most at risk of being cut include personal emergency response systems, senior centers, meal deliveries, and personal care support. This year, 92% of AAAs will face a budget shortfall if our requested budget is not approved.

As we work to move Pennsylvania forward, our older adults are relying on your leadership to ensure the services they need are adequately funded. By including an **additional $105 million investment ($392,848,000 total),** AAAs will be able to effectively support the growing needs of Pennsylvania’s largest demographic.

Thank you for your attention to this matter and for your leadership on behalf of all Pennsylvanians.

Sincerely,