



# LCAO Priorities in the New Administration

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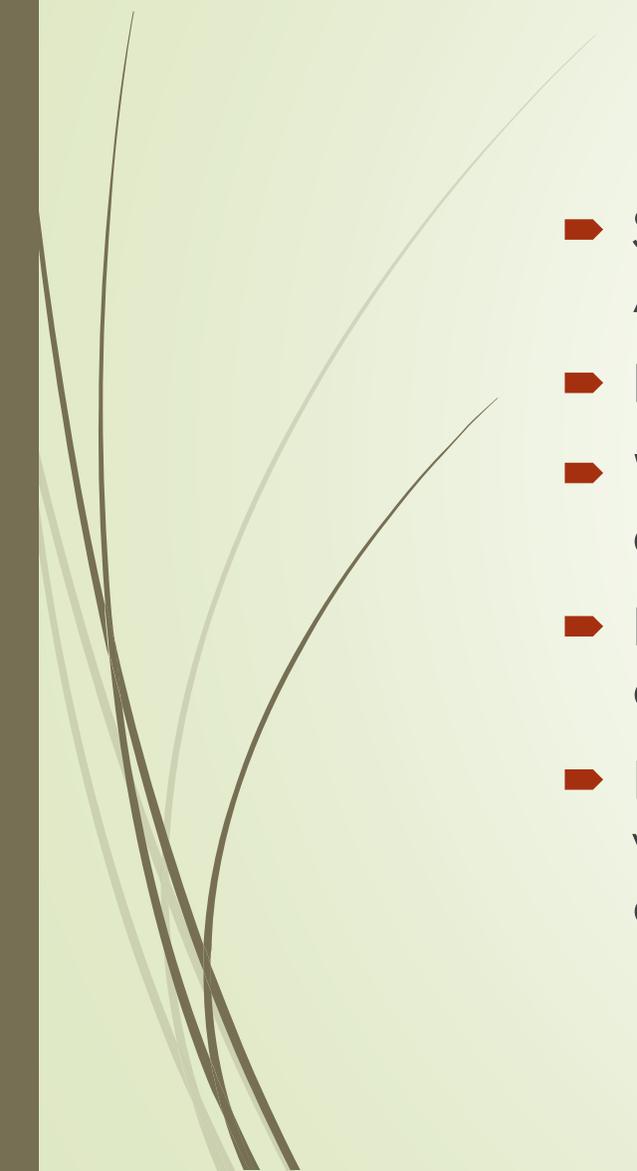


# Leadership Council of Aging Organizations (LCAO)

- Membership
    - Established 1980
    - 71 not-for-profit, national organizations
    - Well-being of older people must be the organization's primary agenda
    - Organization must represent or be comprised of older people, aging services providers or research groups in the field of aging
    - 5 convening organizations – LeadingAge 2016-17
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# LCAO - Vision

- Strengthen public and private initiatives to meet the needs of aging Americans
  - Promote thoughtful and rational policy changes where necessary
  - Work with all institutions – political, social, religious, economic – to ensure they welcome and support older people's participation
  - Eliminate discrimination on the basis of age, gender, race, ethnic origin
  - Recognize the diversity of the elder population, including people who are frail and need services as well as those who are employed or who volunteer
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# Priorities

- Health care and long-term services and supports – Medicare/Medicaid
  - Income security – Social Security, pensions
  - Community services – nutrition, transportation, homemaking, help with ADLs
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# Health Care and Long-Term Services and Supports

- ▶ Affordable Care Act (ACA) repeal and replacement:
  - ▶ Oppose Medicaid transformation through block grants or per capita caps
  - ▶ Retain Medicaid expansion, especially for people aged 55-64
  - ▶ Oppose Medicare premium support
  - ▶ Oppose increase in Medicare eligibility age
  - ▶ Retain ACA provisions for closing drug doughnut hole, preventive care



# Health Care and Long-Term Services and Supports

- ▶ ACA repeal/replace (contd):
  - ▶ Preserve Prevention and Public Health Fund – address falls, chronic health conditions
  - ▶ Improve access to home- and community-based services – Community First Choice, Independence at Home
  - ▶ Enhance Medicare Advantage plan affordability; institute medical loss ratios
  - ▶ Support demos on Medicare and Medicaid integration
  - ▶ Combat elder abuse
  - ▶ Improve quality of long-term care



# Other Medicare Issues

- Allow CMS to negotiate prescription drug prices
- Cap out of pocket costs under traditional Medicare
- Update Part B enrollment, in sync with rising retirement ages
- Improve access to affordable supplemental insurance
- Fund Medicare State Health Insurance Assistance Programs
- Eliminate 3-day inpatient hospital stay required for coverage of post-acute care
- Cover oral health, eyeglasses and hearing aids



# Community Services Older Americans Act

- ▶ Pays for services that enable seniors to live independently in the community:
- ▶ Congregate and home-delivered meals
- ▶ Transportation
- ▶ Personal care and homemaker services
- ▶ Caregiver assistance
- ▶ Long-term care ombudsmen
- ▶ Alzheimer's Disease initiatives



# Community Services Older Americans Act

- ▶ Demographics:
  - ▶ By 2030, 1 in 5 Americans will be aged 65 or over
  - ▶ 90% of seniors have at least one chronic health condition
  - ▶ 4.2 seniors live in poverty
  - ▶ More than 10 million seniors are food-insecure
  - ▶ 10 – 15% of elders experience abuse



# Income Security – Social Security

- More than 60 million Americans receive benefits
- Without Social Security, 41% of people aged 65+ would live in poverty
- LCAO calls for use of a CPI-E to compute annual retirement benefit COLAs
- Supports increased funding for Social Security Administration administrative expenses to improve customer service
- Supports combining the retirement and disability trust funds



# Income Security

- ▶ Supplemental Security Income – income and asset eligibility criteria must be updated
  - ▶ Support for defined benefit pension plans
  - ▶ Support for Obama Administration fiduciary rule to protect workers investing for retirement
  - ▶ Tax credit for family caregivers
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