



November 18, 2008

The Honorable Harry Reid  
Majority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Nancy Pelosi  
Speaker  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Mitch McConnell  
Minority Leader  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Boehner  
Minority Leader  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Max Baucus, Chair  
Committee on Finance  
U.S. Senate  
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable John Dingell, Chair  
Committee on Energy and Commerce  
U.S. House of Representatives  
Washington, DC 20515

**President**  
Patricia A. Polansky  
New Jersey

**1st Vice President**  
Irene Collins  
Alabama

**2nd Vice President**  
James Toews  
Oregon

**Secretary**  
Carol Sala  
Nevada

**Treasurer**  
Charles D. Johnson  
Illinois

**Past President**  
Kathy Leitch  
Washington

Dear Majority Leader Reid, Speaker Pelosi, Minority Leader McConnell, Republican Leader Boehner, Chairman Baucus and Chairman Dingell:

The National Association of State Units on Aging (NASUA) appreciates your attention to the issue of fiscal stimulus and economic recovery. An increase in the Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (FMAP), as a part of a second economic stimulus bill to be used to increase the federal level of effort for Medicaid, is an effective way to stimulate the economy. Moreover, it is one of the best ways to help support states as they provide essential health care and other long-term services and supports needed by millions of older adults and people with disabilities.

Clear and proven precedent for an increase in the FMAP during tough economic times exists. In 2003 Congress provided states with temporary fiscal relief by increasing the FMAP, resulting in a significant positive effect on states' business activity and wages. Please take quick action to pass an economic stimulus package that includes **fiscal relief for states by temporarily augmenting the current level of federal support for state Medicaid programs.**

Furthermore, rising food and fuel costs are reducing the already-lean Older Americans Act (OAA) programs and services to vulnerable elders. **We urge you to include \$60 million for OAA senior nutrition programs and to provide additional emergency**

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**funding for OAA programs.** Without such emergency spending to stem the tide of service reductions, greater and greater numbers of seniors will go hungry, become isolated, suffer deteriorating health and face the prospect of unnecessary, and ultimately more costly, institutionalization. Vulnerable older adults and individuals with disabilities living in institutions will lose vital advocacy resources that are promised through the Older Americans Act.

Thank you for considering these recommended strategies as you move forward to protect the millions of low-income individuals who rely on these safety net supports.

Sincerely,



Patricia Polansky  
President



Martha Roherty  
Executive Director