

Congress of the United States
Washington, DC 20515

July 21, 2017

Office of Management and Budget
Director Mick Mulvaney
Attn: OMB Desk Officer for ACL
725 17th Street, NW
Washington, DC 20503
OIRA_submission@omb.eop.gov

RE: Agency Information Collection Activities; Submission for OMB Review; Comment Request; Revision of a Currently Approved Collection (ICR Rev); National Survey of Older Americans Act Participants (NSOAAP)

Director Mulvaney,

We, members of Congress from both parties, write to oppose the Administration on Community Living's ("ACL") proposed form of the National Survey of Older Americans Act Participants (NSOAAP) insofar as it excludes a demographic question relating to participants' gender identity. From the research and data that has been collected, it is clear that transgender older adults confront significantly higher levels of discrimination, health disparities, psychological distress, and poverty than their non-transgender peers. These unique and higher barriers require that ACL programming take particular note of whether the government assistance funded by the Older Americans Act is reaching the transgender community.

After the initial federal register notice of NSOAAP revealed that ACL was proposing to fully eliminate all demographic questions relating to the entire lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgender community, we sent a bipartisan letter signed by 49 members of Congress (attached hereto) opposing this deletion. The disparities between LGBT and non-LGBT populations of older Americans is all the more pronounced when the focus is narrowed to just transgender Americans. According to *Understanding Issues Facing LGBT Older Adults*¹, 25% of transgender older adults report having faced discrimination based on their gender identity and nearly 50% live at 200% of the federal poverty line or lower. These challenges are compounded by concerns related to caregiving and by limited access to healthcare. Almost one third of transgender people do not know who will care for them as they age and approximately two thirds fear their access to healthcare will be limited as they get older.

These clear barriers to safety, security, and health care call for more information to be specifically collected on the plight of transgender elders. The current noticed version of NSOAAP erases the experience and challenges of the transgender community for no discernable reason. Keeping one additional question in a more than 100-page survey can hardly be viewed as a burden. Simply restoring this demographic question will go far to ensuring the purpose of

¹ The Movement Advancement Project and SAGE, *Understanding Issues Facing LGBT Older Adults*. 2017 (2017) (available at <http://www.lgbtmap.org/file/understanding-issues-facing-lgbt-older-adults.pdf>).

the OAA, ensuring older Americans are able to live out their golden years with dignity and support, is fulfilled.

For years NSOAAP has specifically examined whether OAA programs are reaching communities most in need including the transgender community. The transgender demographic question was, appropriately, optional and did not publicly identify any program participant in the survey results. The question did not violate the participants' privacy; rather it ensured that a population with specific needs was seen and that programs helped all of those who needed assistance.

We strongly encourage you to restore the deleted gender identity demographic question. ACL must commit to serving all elders, and that begins with a comprehensive NSOAAP that reveals whether OAA is reaching older transgender Americans in need.

Sincerely,



Ted Deutch
MEMBER OF CONGRESS



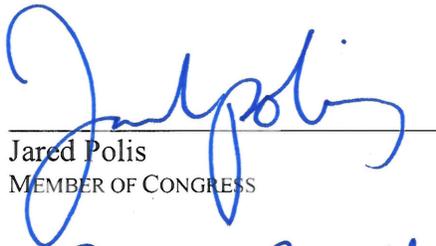
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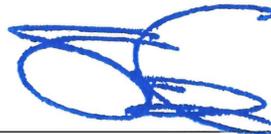
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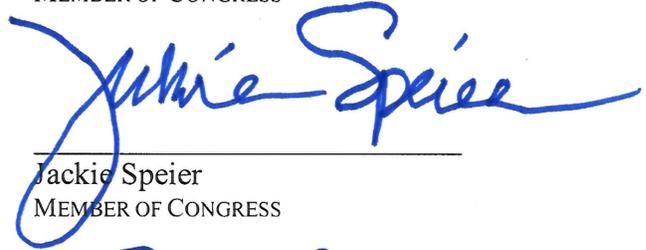
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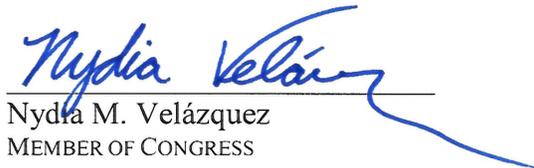
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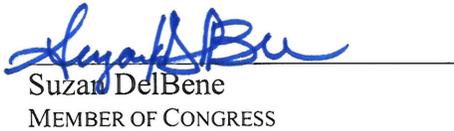
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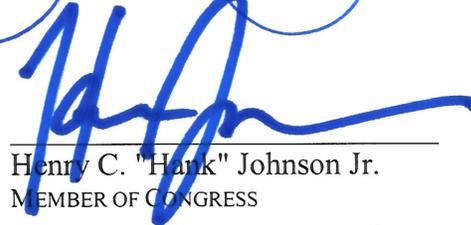
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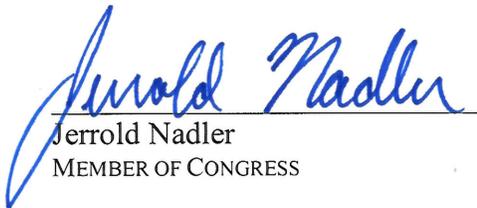
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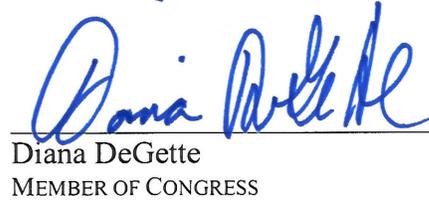
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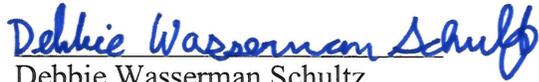
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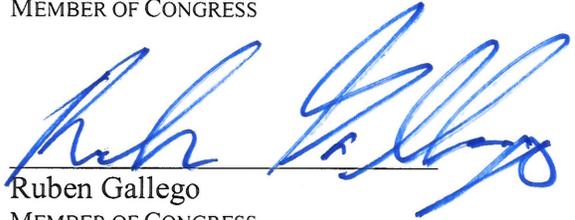
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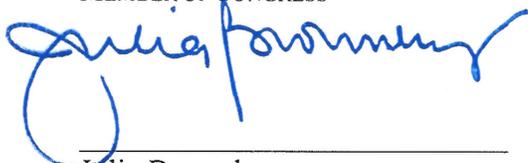
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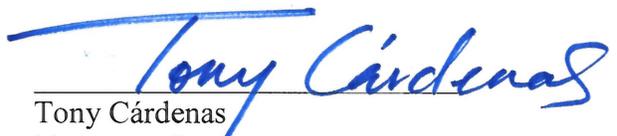
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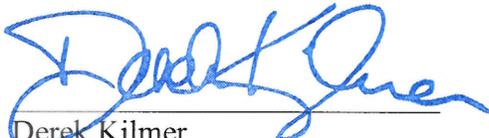
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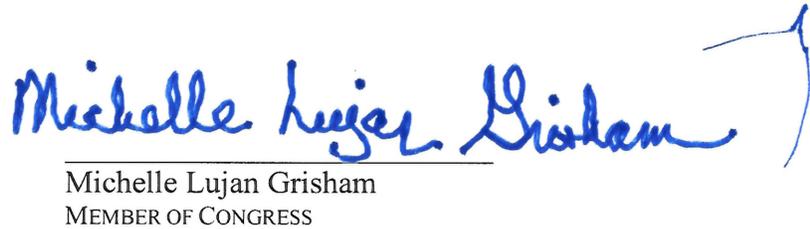
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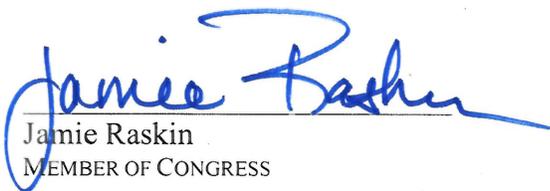
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