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American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging  
Presentation for the 2011 Older American's Act Re-Authorization  
February 25, 2010

I am Peter Notarstefano, Director of Home and Community-based Services at the American Association of Homes and Services for the Aging. On behalf of our 5800 not for profit aging services members, I thank you for the opportunity to submit these recommendations to be considered for inclusion in the Older American's Act Re-authorization in 2011.

AAHSA members provide adult day services, in-home services, meal programs and transportation thanks to funding through and collaboration with local area agencies on aging. Our nursing home and senior housing members also benefit from the Area Agency on Aging programs in their communities.

First, we are proposing a "Housing with Services" title that would provide funding for in-home care, chore services, case management, service coordinator training, meal programs at the housing site and wellness programs for older adults that specifically reside in HUD housing. Low-income seniors disproportionately live in apartments and have less family support. The median age of residents in HUD senior housing is 74 years old, and 30% of them are age 80 and older. Studies show that subsidized senior renters experience more chronic health conditions than non-subsidized renters and homeowners. Many times, existing programs under Title III are not available for individuals in HUD senior housing due to limitations in funding. A "Housing with Services" Title would increase the focus on this population of older adults that want to age in place.

Second, AAHSA also believes that there should be a section added under Title IV that initiates funding for demonstration projects that promote the use of technology for medication management, Falls prevention, safety and health and wellness kiosks in senior centers and senior housing developments. We currently have members in our Center for Aging Services Technologies that have been successful in using technology to promote wellness.

Third, we believe that under Title II, the Aging and Disability Resource Centers should have dedicated funding for improvements in public awareness of Older American's Act programs, information and referral technology, and training for single point of entry staff to assure that older adults and caregivers receive all the appropriate long-term services and support options that are available to them in their communities.

I thank you for the opportunity to submit these recommendations.