

Carolyn McLaren
Area Agency on Aging Region X
On behalf of the Missouri Association of Area Agencies on Aging (MA4)
Testimony for AoA OAA Reauthorization
February 18, 2010
Dallas, Texas

Good Afternoon, I am Carolyn McLaren, Executive Director of one of the ten Area Agencies on Aging in Missouri. I represent the Missouri Association of Area Agencies on Aging known as MA4. Thank you for the opportunity to voice our suggestions and concerns. I will be brief, we have four recommendations for you to consider as you look at possible changes to the Older Americans Act.

The first recommendation is the elimination of the priority services requirements. Within the State of Missouri we find that each area is very different and unique. MA4 feels the current priority services requirements are antiquated and The Older Americans Act needs to allow the States and the individual Area Agencies on Aging to tailor their services to the needs of their respective areas.

The second recommendation is the need to reconsider the use of the current food requirements of the DRI. We find that the meal we deliver to our homebound client is frequently the only meal they will have that day. By following the current DRI limits our nutritionally at risk clients are receiving only one third of their nutrition needs. This creates an even greater health risk to these frail individuals. We recommend that the requirements become the minimum, rather than the maximum standard.

The third recommendation is for the Area Agencies on Aging to have the flexibility to offer services on a cost sharing basis. These services would be at a level above those normally offered for a donation by the client.

Our final recommendation is to adjust the minimum age from sixty to sixty-five. The baby-boomer generation is different from the sixty-year-olds of several decades ago. Today's sixty to sixty-five year old is healthier, more active and self reliant. They do not feel they are aging or old enough to be in need of our services.

Thank you for your time and consideration of MA4's recommendations.