

Testimony for Reauthorization of the Older Americans Act – March 3, 2010

Joseph Cobery representing the California Association of Area Agencies on Aging and Passages Area 3 Agency on Aging.

Reporting requirements for Area Agencies on Aging need to be looked at and only the most relevant requirements need to be included. Most AAA's recognize the importance of good data and reporting requirements but we request better efficiency in reporting requirements. We ask that you work with the State Units on Aging to ensure that the data and reporting requirements they pass on to the AAA's is relevant and efficient. Since the act was established in 1965 it is important to look at required reporting and ensure it matches the needs of today's seniors.

C4A request dedicated funding to volunteer programs through Area Agencies on Aging. As the of American population ages, particularly baby boomers, it is important that we tap into this great volunteer resource. The 2006 OAA Amendment encourage partnerships and cooperative arrangements including organizations with experience in providing training, placements, and stipends for volunteers or participants such as the Corporation for National and Community Service. We support those past efforts and again seek a dedicated funding stream so we may continue and grow volunteer programs that have successfully used volunteers as part of care management plans, caregiver services, SHIPS/HICAP counseling, and advocacy through Long Term Care Ombudsman programs. In addition, the Retired and Senior Volunteer Programs offers older adults opportunities to serve their communities through clean up days and other episodic opportunities.