



**DIVERSE
ELDERS
COALITION**

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MEMBER ORGANIZATIONS

National Asian Pacific
Center on Aging

National Hispanic
Council on Aging

National Indian
Council on Aging

SAGE (Advocacy &
Services for LGBT Elders)

Southeast Asia Resource
Action Center

October 24, 2018

Dear Aging Services Provider,

On behalf of the Diverse Elders Coalition, we would like to thank you for what you do! We know the services you provide our older adults support their quality of life and their ability to live independently.

Our elected officials hold great responsibility and are chosen to make important decisions that affect our quality of life. Social Security, Medicare, Medicaid, Senior Nutrition (Older Americans Act and Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program) and other safety net programs play a vital role in supporting older Americans throughout our country.

The upcoming election in November may be one of the most important elections in recent history, as we all know the future of the American safety net is threatened. The misrepresentation and misunderstanding of Social Security and Medicare as entitlements is a disservice to our older Americans who have contributed to these funds throughout their lives. These earned benefit programs, created decades ago, were designed with the faith that as our contributions supported others, we too would be sustained as we aged. We must protect these programs, which are the foundation for independent living for all older adults.

We are respectfully asking you to help protect these programs for the clients we serve and their families. This can be done in several ways:

1. Educate and provide accurate information on the programs at stake: Social Security, Medicare, Older Americans Act, the Farm Bill, and others. If you need information on how changes to these programs will affect your clients directly, please contact the Diverse Elders Coalition for proposed actions against these programs.
2. Explain how proposed actions will affect your clients directly and suggest ways they may be able to participate to oppose these actions. This could be through deliberate transportation to voting locations, providing support for absentee voting, or other means of helping your members participate in the voting process. If your clients are not able to vote, you may suggest joining advocacy organizations and groups to get out the vote and participate in the voting process.
3. Ask that candidates provide accurate information about their positions on these vital issues.

If these programs and services are drastically reduced or eliminated, the impact will be quickly felt not only by our clients but by the agencies that provide these vital services as well.

Your efforts will be crucial in providing a voice to those that long have been ignored. We sincerely appreciate all that you do in your communities and we know that we are stronger together. Please work with us as we continue to advocate and fight for the programs that we know improve the lives of older adults!