

# U.S. SENATOR BOB CASEY

 **CHAIRMAN** *Special Committee on Aging*

## **Continued Funding for Senior Services During COVID-19 Act (S.440) Led by Senators Casey, Kelly and Gillibrand**

### **Why do we need the Continued Funding for Senior Services During COVID-19 Act?**

Each year, over [11 million](#) older adults receive services authorized by the Older Americans Act (OAA), including home-delivered and congregate meals, support for family caregivers and other services. In response to the pandemic, the demand for these services has skyrocketed. A recent [survey](#) shows that 93 percent of Area Agencies on Aging (AAA) across the Nation served more clients since the pandemic began, and 69 percent of AAAs experienced an increased demand for services among existing clients. Since the start of the pandemic, Congress has provided over \$1 billion in funding and programmatic flexibilities to support these agencies.

OAA service providers throughout the country are currently reaching out to at-risk older adults, educating them on the COVID-19 vaccine and assisting with vaccination appointments. Aging network providers have taken on this additional work of vaccine outreach and education while also providing their traditional services. Seniors' needs remain high and the demand on AAAs and their community partners continues to grow as they assist in State and local efforts to safeguard older Americans' access to the COVID-19 vaccine. The aging network requires continued support to ensure seniors can remain safely in their homes during the COVID-19 pandemic and to facilitate access to COVID-19 vaccinations.

### **What would the Continued Funding for Senior Services During COVID-19 Act do?**

The bill would provide more than \$1.5 billion in funding to the aging network to support continued services during the COVID-19 pandemic, including:

- \$480 million for vaccination outreach and programming, outreach to seniors with limited English proficiency, support for senior legal hotlines, and more;
- A combined \$775 million for nutrition services;
- \$44 million for evidence-based disease prevention and health promotion services;
- \$145 million for caregiver support services;
- \$75.5 million to carry out demonstrations and evaluations under the Act, including funding to support multigenerational engagement, bringing seniors and kids together; and
- \$10 million for the long-term care ombudsman program.

**Supporters:** National Council on Aging, National Association of Area Agencies on Aging, ADvancing States, Meals on Wheels America, Gerontological Society of America, SeniorLAW Center, National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs, Generations United, Justice in Aging, National Association of Senior Legal Hotlines

**Cosponsors:** Sens. Van Hollen, Peters, Blumenthal, Duckworth, Klobuchar, Smith, Shaheen