



February 25, 2013

Dear Member of Congress:

On behalf of not-for-profit aging services providers and those they serve and employ, I urge you to prevent automatic spending cuts in programs serving elders that are due to take effect on March 1.

The LeadingAge community (www.LeadingAge.org) includes 6,000 not-for-profit organizations whose services include home health, hospice, community services, senior housing, assisted living residences, continuing care communities and nursing homes.

Sequestration will reduce Section 202 affordable housing for seniors funding by \$18 million. The Administration on Aging, which manages home- and community-based services for seniors, will lose \$86.7 million. Medicare reimbursement to skilled nursing facilities and home health care providers will be cut by another 2%.

There is no denying the seriousness of the federal budget situation and the need for shared sacrifice to address it.

However, aging services programs already have absorbed many cutbacks over the last few years. Section 202 funding for this year is less than half of what it was three years ago. There has been no new construction money for two years. Medicare reimbursement has been curbed both administratively and under the Affordable Care Act.

These programs already are under-funded in relation to the growing number of elders needing services. The people we serve are physically and/or mentally frail, with limited financial resources. They have no other means of obtaining essential housing, nutrition, transportation and health services. These are basic human necessities that increasing numbers of seniors cannot afford.

Continued cutbacks in funding also have an impact on employment in our field. Because the population using long-term services and supports is growing, our sector holds great promise for job creation. In many communities, especially in rural areas, our members are the primary employer. Continued cutbacks in funding for the services LeadingAge members provide will stymie job growth in our field.

Please do everything possible to avert sequestration by taking a fair and balanced approach to reducing the federal budget deficit. We need a budget plan that does not impose a disproportionate burden on those least able to sustain cutbacks in health care, housing and long-term services and supports for people as they age.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "William L. Minnix, Jr." in a cursive script.

William L. Minnix, Jr.
President & CEO, LeadingAge