



**STATE OF WASHINGTON**  
**WASHINGTON STATE COUNCIL ON AGING**  
*PO Box 45600 · Olympia, WA 98504-5600*

May 3<sup>rd</sup> 2013

Honorable Cathy McMorris Rodgers  
10 North Post Street, Suite 625  
Spokane, WA 99201  
via Fax: 509-353-2412

Dear Representative McMorris,

Our purpose in writing you is twofold. One is to request your assessment of the impact the sequester cuts have had on senior citizens who reside in your district and receive services funded by the Older Americans (OAA). As you know, these services include but are not limited to transportation to medical appointments, home delivered or congregate meals and family caregiver services. We are also requesting information on the number of seniors in your district who will lose or see a reduction in access to the Low Income Energy Assistance Program. Please provide an annual estimate as well as ten year total.

Given the gravity of this issue-sequester cuts currently scheduled to span a ten year period in the face of the forecast for unprecedented growth in the 60+ population – the Washington State Council is asking each Representative for this information. We have received data from the statewide aging network and will be comparing it with totals obtained from each congressional district.

In addition to advising the Governor and other state officials, the State Council on Aging is responsible for advising on federally funded programs for senior citizens. Based on both our collective experience and knowledge we are confident that the services we are referencing are proven to save tax payer dollars. This is accomplished by providing cost effective supports that allow our most at-risk seniors to avoid more costly Medicaid funded placement in nursing homes.

Since there doesn't appear to be a broader budget solution to address sequester cuts on the horizon, our second purpose in writing you is to request that you prioritize engaging in a bi-partisan effort to spare senior citizens from the adverse impact of the sequester. Keeping in mind that senior citizens nationwide are affected, we ask that this be done by replicating the recent bi-partisan and swift action taken by Congress to address air travel delays caused by sequester cuts.

We look forward to your response. Please send your district data to me at [meraschko@comcast.net](mailto:meraschko@comcast.net) . We would appreciate a response by June 15, 2013.

If you or your staff has any questions please contact me [meraschko@comcast.net](mailto:meraschko@comcast.net) or these State Council Members who are also your constituents: Ron Bacon at [rbacon@rcabletv.com](mailto:rbacon@rcabletv.com) or Fran Bessermin at [fbessermin@gmail.com](mailto:fbessermin@gmail.com)

Thank you for your continued service to the public.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Marie E. Raschko-Sokol". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Marie E. Raschko-Sokol  
Chair, Washington State Council on Aging

Cc: Senator Patty Murray  
Senator Maria Cantwell  
Ron Bacon, State Council on Aging  
Fran Bessermin, State Council on Aging  
Lori Brown, Director, Southeast Washington Aging and Long Term Care  
Bruce Buckles, Director, Aging and Adult Care of Central Washington  
Nick Beamer, Director, Aging and Long Term Care of Eastern Washington  
Kevin Quigley, Secretary Department of Social and Health Services  
Bill Moss, Acting Assistant Secretary, Aging & Long-Term Supports  
Administration