



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

May 3rd 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 . We would appreciate a response by June 15, 2013.

If you or your staff has any questions please contact me meraschko@comcast.net or these State Council Members who are also your constituents: Ron Bacon at rbacon@rcabletv.com or Fran Bessermin at 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 with a clear, legible font.

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