

Some Budget Cuts Won't Make Older Adults and People with Disabilities Healthier

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Efforts to "Make America Healthy Again," may harm older adults and people with disabilities, who are the fastest growing part of America's population. This growing segment of the population also tends to be the most active consumers of health care services.

Among his announced twenty-five percent workforce reduction at the Department of Health and Human Services, are elimination or reorganization of several key units. Elimination of the Administration for Community Living (ACL), is a classic case of "penny-wise and pound foolish!" What will happen to the eleven million older Americans and their families and their ability to continue living and aging in communities with dignity and economic opportunity?

Programs such as Meals on Wheels, Adult Day Health, curtailing elder abuse, respite, etc. that are currently administered by ACL. These investments are vital to preserving programs that serve so many older adults.

Similarly, reorganization of the Agency for Healthcare Research and Quality – the unit that help to keep health care safer for patients by fighting medical mistakes and reducing health care acquired infections. Cuts that place such vital research and implementation at risk won't make America healthier, just the opposite.

The cuts proposed for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, the National Institutes of Health, the National Institute on Aging, also are more likely to harm Americans, especially those who are older or with disabilities. Any large bureaucracy can be made more efficient and less costly, but cutting budgets with a chain-saw mentality, but DOGE interns unfamiliar with essential programs are not qualified to make such life-risking decisions. Let's urge the Trump Administration to take more time and give more thought to produce government efficiencies that make sense, not simply save cents. We, the People, deserve better.