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Alliance of National Disability and Aging Organizations has Deep Concerns with Proposed Elimination of Vital HHS Programs

Washington, D.C. — The American Disability & Aging Alliance (ADAA) and leading disability and aging advocacy organizations across the country are expressing deep concern following the leak of an internal Office of Management and Budget (OMB) document that proposes the elimination of vital programs currently housed within the Administration for Community Living (ACL) under the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS).

The leaked document outlines drastic funding cuts and the elimination of statutory programs that, if enacted, would dismantle decades of progress supporting older adults and people with disabilities. These programs, which have enjoyed longstanding bipartisan support, provide essential services such as consumer-driven independent living centers, family caregiver support, elder rights protection, and community-based services that allow individuals to live with dignity in their own homes and communities.

"We are shocked and dismayed that such foundational and widely supported programs would be targeted for elimination," said Theo Braddy, a member of ADAA. "These services are not optional — they are lifelines for millions of Americans."

The Administration for Community Living was established to bring together the needs of older adults and people with disabilities under one umbrella, promoting autonomy, belonging, and access. Advocates warn that removing or defunding core programs could leave vulnerable populations without support, potentially forcing them into institutional care and stripping away their rights and independence, which creates unintended additional costs for the government. Christina Mills, an ADAA member, said, "Fundamentally changing or eliminating aging programs threatens the independence, dignity, and well-being of older adults across the country."

"This is not just a policy debate — it's about real people, real lives, and real communities," said Michael Lewis, a member of ADAA. "These cuts would disproportionately harm those who are already underserved, including rural residents, low-income individuals, people with disabilities, or those who are aging, who are already struggling to meet their needs."

The ADAA urges Members of Congress to reject any proposals to weaken or eliminate these ACL programs.

"This budget proposes eliminating essential supports that have helped millions of Americans with intellectual and developmental disabilities (IDD) live fuller, healthier, and more connected lives," said ADAA member Jill Jacobs. "Disability and aging are not partisan issues—they impact everyone. We urge Congress to reject any budget that includes these devastating cuts."

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American Disability and Aging Alliance (ADAA) is the coalition of national disability advocacy organizations. The coalition's membership consists of independent living centers, developmental disability councils, and other national disability advocacy groups.

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