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Subject: Statement from Justice in Aging on Trump's Proposed Budget

Trump's Proposed Budget an Assault on Older Adults

Today, Trump released an outline of a proposed budget for fiscal year 2018 that targets older adults with the greatest needs. The budget slashes funding for essential services that allow older adults, including those with disabilities that limit their mobility, to remain safely at home and in their communities. The proposed budget also eliminates funding for a program that provides legal services that help older adults fight back against abuse and assert their rights.

The cuts include:

- **Meals on Wheels**—This vital program enables seniors and people with disabilities who are homebound to continue living independently at home while receiving nutritious meals, personal contact and related services. Trump's proposed budget completely eliminates the \$3 billion Community Development Block Grant program from the Department of Housing and Urban Development that provides federal funding for Meals on Wheels programs. Without this source of funding, Meals on Wheels will have to dramatically reduce the number of people it serves.
- **Low-Cost and Free Legal Services**—Older people nationwide receive critical legal services through the Legal Services Corporation (LSC) to help them defend themselves against abuse and neglect, preserve their rights to health care, long-term care, and economic security, and receive legal assistance with housing and related issues. In 2014, LSC grantees assisted an estimated 190,000 seniors and their family members with legal issues. Funding for the LSC is completely eliminated under Trump's proposed budget.
- **Low-Income Home Energy Assistance Program (LIHEAP)**—Low-income families receive assistance with the costs of heating and cooling their homes through the LIHEAP. Without this assistance, many low-income households would have to choose between heating or cooling and food or medicine. Almost a third of households that were provided with heating assistance have an elderly member, and 40% of those provided with cooling assistance were elderly. Every year, older people die during periods of extreme cold or heat. Cutting this assistance program will increase these unnecessary deaths.

Trump's proposed budget, when considered in tandem with the GOP health plan, demonstrates a cruel pattern from this administration of taking essential services and programs away from those most in need.

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