

defeat **malnutrition** today

January 30, 2020

The Honorable Lamar Alexander
Chairman
Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Patty Murray
Ranking Member
Senate Health, Education, Labor and Pensions
Committee
United States Senate
Washington, DC 20510

The Honorable Bobby Scott
Chairman
House Education and Labor Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Virginia Foxx
Ranking Member
House Education and Labor Committee
United States House of Representatives
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairmen Alexander and Scott and Ranking Members Murray and Foxx:

The Defeat Malnutrition Today coalition wishes to offer its support for the Supporting Older Americans Act of 2020.

We particularly commend the inclusion of two provisions, each which will help raise awareness about and potentially help prevent older adult malnutrition. Section 106 of the bill calls for first-time malnutrition screening as part of the definition of nutrition screening and clarifies that a purpose of the Older Americans Act (OAA) nutrition programs is to help prevent malnutrition.

Each of these provisions, along with the increased authorizations provided for the nutrition programs, are important recognitions of the link between nutrition and health. We know that malnutrition poses a direct threat to the health and well-being of older adults, and we want to promote prevention using a screening tool in the nutrition program.

We look forward to helping you secure final passage of this important bill.

Sincerely,

Bob Blancato
National Coordinator
Defeat Malnutrition Today