

defeat **malnutrition** today

October 28, 2019

The bipartisan Defeat Malnutrition Today coalition today endorsed the Dignity in Aging Act of 2019, H.R. 4334, a bill to reauthorize the programs and services of the Older Americans Act.

“Our support of this bipartisan bill is based on a number of factors, but most significantly the recognition in the bill in two different places about the growing problem of malnutrition and older adults,” said Defeat Malnutrition Today National Coordinator Bob Blancato.

Older adult malnutrition is recognized in the bill through language calling for malnutrition screening in the preventive health section of the Older Americans Act and as one of the purposes of the nutrition program, the largest program in the Act.

The 95-member coalition worked with key House members responsible for H.R. 4334 to have this language included.

The coalition’s endorsement is also based on the bill being a five-year extension of the Older Americans Act as well as providing for a 35 percent increase in authorization levels during that time period. Further, the coalition notes that the bill provides a strong endorsement of the existing congregate and home-delivered nutrition programs.

Defeat Malnutrition Today (DMT) is a coalition of 95 organizations and stakeholders working to end older adult malnutrition across the continuum of care. DMT is also working to create a greater focus on malnutrition screening, diagnosis, and intervention across the nation’s health care system. For more information, visit defeatmalnutrition.today.