

**U.S. Congressman Kenny Marchant**  
**9901 E. Valley Ranch Pkwy, Ste. #2060**  
**Irving, Texas 75063**

Dear Representative Marchant:

The budget for the 2019 fiscal year, specifically the Department of Health and Human Services, is of paramount interest to me because I am an intern with Meals On Wheels, Inc. of Tarrant County. In just two weeks, I have learned about the expansive services Meals on Wheels provides, from a hot meal and friendly face to building wheelchair ramps. This issue directly impacts our clients at Meals On Wheels.

I am primarily concerned about funding for the Older Americans Act because services such as Meals On Wheels depend on this money to function. Our clients in Tarrant County face a high level of food insecurity, and their home-delivered hot meal is sometimes their only intake for the day. At Tarrant County we are 45% government funded, so any decreases dramatically influence our abilities. Therefore, it is imperative to have funding for nutrition services. Based on this administration's "America First" budget in 2018, it is obvious that older Americans are not a priority. With a \$54 billion decrease in discretionary spending, the Department of Health and Human Services and thus the Older Americans Act would be negatively affected. Another aspect of this same issue that affects our clients is the decrease in funding for health professions and nursing training programs. As the older population increases, so does the need for healthcare professionals; their training is very important.

Although I have read your position on funding for senior services on your website, I haven't seen any current standpoints or recent legislative action. As a member of the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, I plan on being very active in any legislation affecting the nutritional status of American citizens. It is easy to simply cut funding on paper but seeing the results firsthand are a completely different matter.

Thank you for your consideration of my viewpoint on this matter. I believe it is an important issue and would like to see the budget include adequate funding for the support of older Americans. They have given so much to this country, and we owe it to them to help them keep their dignity and independence as long as possible.

Sincerely,

Mara Miller  
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