May 9, 2025

The Honorable Jason Smith
Chairman, Ways and Means
U.S. House of Representatives

The Honorable Richard Neal
Ranking Member, Way and Means
U.S. House of Representatives

Dear Chairman Smith and Ranking Member Neal –

As the Ways and Means Committee marks up their budget reconciliation legislation this week, the **365** undersigned organizations urge you, and the members of the Committee, to protect and maintain full funding for the Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) by supporting Amendment **[insert #]** to strike the elimination of SSBG from the reconciliation bill.

Our coalition represents a diverse array of stakeholders, including associations of state and local governments and non-profit organizations representing the interests of children, older adults, people with disabilities, and vulnerable families - each organization believes that SSBG is vitally important to meeting the needs of children, families, and individuals in our communities.

SSBG was created in 1981 during the Reagan Administration, capping entitlement funding and turning it into a flexible block grant for states. Since 2003, SSBG has been funded at $1.7 billion, and state and county governments use these funds to support 29 different types of human service programs. These services include protecting children, older adults and people with disabilities from abuse and neglect, adult day care and foster care, child care, in-home support, as well as both home-delivered and congregate meals. SSBG funding is also a source of assistance for many support services to youth and juveniles, including counseling and independent living services. SSBG and its flexibility helps state and local governments address gaps or shortfalls in many program areas and helps communities better serve their families.

SSBG funds serve millions of children, families and adults who are vulnerable, ranging from infants and toddlers to older adults. In 2022, the most recent federal SSBG data available, states reported just over 20 million recipients of SSBG services throughout FY 2022. Of the total, 9.2 million (46%) were children and 11 million (54%) were adults.

State and local governments have relied heavily on SSBG dollars to meet the unique needs of their communities; we have included a number of examples and anecdotes below. States and counties would be hard-pressed to replace lost SSBG funds if the grant were to be cut or eliminated, resulting in serious consequences for millions of children, older adults, and people with disabilities. Therefore, we strongly encourage you to protect funding to this critical source of support for children, individuals, and communities by supporting the amendment to strike mention of SSBG from the Ways and Means reconciliation bill.

With gratitude,

CC: Members of Congress

A Way Home America
Adopt America Network
American Academy of Pediatrics
American Federation of State, County and Municipal Employees (AFSCME)
APWU Retirees Department
Association of Children's Residential & Community Services (ACRC)
Autistic People of Color Fund
Boys Town
Caring Across Generations
Center for Law and Social Policy
Child Welfare League of America
Children's Advocacy Institute
Children's Defense Fund
Children's Trust Fund Alliance
Coalition on Human Needs
Congregation of Our Lady of Charity of the Good Shepherd, U.S. Provinces
Congressional Research Institute for Social Work Policy
Corporation for Supportive Housing
Dave Thomas Foundation for Adoption
Demcast
Elder Justice Coalition
Families Rising
Family Centered Treatment Foundation
Family Equality
Family Focused Treatment Association
First Focus Campaign for Children
Foster Care to Success
Foster Success
FosterParentCollege.com
Futures Without Violence
Generations United Inc.
Health Care for America Now (HCAN)
Healthy Teen Network
Hickey Consulting
iFoster Inc.
Inspire Positivity Inc
Institute for Policy Studies' Poverty Project
International Association for Indigenous Aging
Juanita C. Grant Foundation Inc.
Justice in Aging
Lutheran Services in America
MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger
Meals on Wheels America
MomsRising

CC: Members of Congress

National Adult Day Services Association (NADSA)
National Adult Protective Services Association
National Advocacy Center of the Sisters of the Good Shepherd
National Association of Counsel for Children
National Association of Counties (NACo)
National Association of County Human Services Administrators (NACHSA)
National Association of Nutrition and Aging Services Programs (NANASP)
National Association of Social Workers (NASW)
National Center on Adoption and Permanency
National Coalition for the Homeless
National Council on Aging
National Diaper Bank Network
National Federation of Families
National Health Care for the Homeless Council
National Indian Child Welfare Association
National Network for Youth
National Respite Coalition
National Women's Law Center (NWLC)
National Youth Advocate Program
North American Family Institute
Parents as Teachers National Center
Public Advocacy for Kids (PAK)
The Arc of the United States
Unitarian Universalists for Social Justice
United Church of Christ
USAging
Village to Village Network
Voice for Adoption
YATOM: The Jewish Foster and Adoption Network
Youth Law Center
Youth Villages
YWCA USA
ZERO TO THREE

Alabama
Children’s Aid Society of AL
Justin James McCarrell Children's Legal Advocacy Center

Alaska
Alaska Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

Arizona
Arizona Association of Counties
Arizona Association of County School Superintendents
Arizona Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Pima County School Superintendent's Office

CC: Members of Congress

Arkansas
Arkansas Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

California
Adult Protective Services, Placer County
Alameda County Children and Family Services
American Academy of Pediatrics, California
American Academy of Pediatrics, CA Chapter 3
California Alliance of Child and Family Services
Central California and Bay Area AdultProtective Services Training Academy
Children Now
Children's Law Center of California
End Child Poverty California
Fresno Adult Services Training Academy
Greenwood Law Corp.
John Burton Advocates For Youth
Marin Link
Mendocino County Social Services
PEP Housing
Sacramento County
Safe & Sound
SHIELDS for Families
The California Family Resource Association
The Child Abuse Prevention Center
Wayfinder Family Services

Colorado
Alliance
American Academy of Pediatrics Colorado Chapter
Arapahoe County
City and County of Denver
Colorado Association of Family & Children's Agencies (CAFCA)
Colorado Office of the Child's Representative
Cornerstone Programs
Gateway Residential Services
Laradon
Pikes Peak Elder Justice Center
Raise the Future
Special Kids, Special Families
Teller County, DHS/APS
Tennyson Center for Children
Third Way Center
WhimSpire

CC: Members of Congress

Connecticut
AgingCT
Western CT Area Agency on Aging, Inc.

Delaware
Delaware Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Pressley Ridge - Delaware

District of Columbia
Children's Law Center (DC)
Paths for Families

Florida
Florida Chapter of American Academy of Pediatrics, Inc.
Florida Foster & Adoptive Parent Association
St. Augustine Youth Services

Georgia
Advocates for Children
Christian City, Inc.
Georgia Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Hillside, Inc.
Innovative Solutions for Disadvantage and Disability
MAAC
Murphy-Harpst Children's Centers
Together Georgia

Hawaii
Hawaii Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Idaho
Idaho Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Illinois
Bes & Bastet-Leland Jackson Foundation Inc.
Illinois Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Illinois Collaboration on Youth

Indiana
AID of Indiana
Indiana Association of Area Agencies on Aging

Iowa
American Home Finding Association
Coalition for Family & Children's Services in Iowa
Crittenton Center - Sioux City, Iowa
Elderbridge Agency on Aging
Ellipsis

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Family Access Center
Iowa Association of Area Agencies on Aging
Iowa Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Woodward Academy
Youth Shelter Care of NCI

Kansas
FosterAdopt Connect
Saint Francis Ministries

Kentucky
Children's Alliance of Kentucky
Gateway Children's Services
Kentucky Chapter of the AAP
Prevent Child Abuse Kentucky

Louisiana
Clover New Orleans Inc.
Tulane University-School of Social Work

Maine
Adoptive & Foster Families of Maine Inc.
Maine Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Maine Children's Alliance
The Kinship Program

Maryland
Diakonos Counseling & Consultation Services LLC
Maryland Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Maryland Nonprofits
Montgomery County Commission on Aging
National Association of Social Workers-Maryland Chapter
Paths for Families
Rhonda Lipkin LLC

Massachusetts
Children's League of Massachusetts
Friends of Children, Inc.
Providers' Council
Roxbury Youthworks, Inc.
Somerville-Cambridge Elder Services
The Gariepy Russell Group
The Massachusetts Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Michigan
Detroit Disability Power
Disability Rights Michigan

CC: Members of Congress

Ennis Center for Children, Inc.
Ingrid Nelson-Stefl, M.S.W., L.M.S.W., P.L.L.C.
MCHS Family of Services
MDHHS
Michigan Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
Michigan Federation for Children and Families
Region IV Area Agency on Aging
Spaulding for Children
The Arc Michigan
The Arc of Allegan County

Minnesota
JLT Law & Mediation/Paramount Law
Minnesota Elder Justice Center
MN Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

Mississippi
Central MS Planning & Development District/ Area Agency on Aging
East Central Planning and Development District
Mississippi Alliance for Child and Community Advocacy
Mississippi Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
North Central Planning and Development District
Northeast Mississippi Planning and Development District

Missouri
Adult Protective Services Missouri Department of Health and Senior Services
Division of Senior and Disability Services
Department of Health and Senior Services
Elder Justice Committee
FosterAdopt Connect
Lutheran Family and Children Services of MO
Missouri Association of Area Agencies on Aging
Northeast Missouri Area Agency on Aging

Montana
MALCOM & PIERS pllc
Montana Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Nebraska
Nebraska Department of Health and Human services
Nebraska Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
South Central Nebraska Area Agency on Aging

Nevada
Children's Advocacy Alliance
Nevada Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics

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Raise the Future
St. Jude's Ranch for Children

New Hampshire
NHAAP
Waypoint

New Jersey
Adult Protective Services, Mercer County
Burlington County Board of Social Services
Catholic Charities, Diocese of Trenton
Embrella
Empower U/ Partner & Transitions of Wellness LLC
Family Connections, Inc.
Family Service League
LivWell Healthcare
Marianne Bradley-Arkush, LLC
New Jersey Alliance for Children, Youth and Families
New Jersey Association of Area Agencies on Aging (NJ4A)
NJ Department of Children and Families
Oaks Integrated Care
Ocean Partnership for Children
Prevent Child Abuse New Jersey
serenity in the home
The Institute of the Center for Great Expectations
Toni Zachos Kaplan, Lcsw Inc.

New Mexico
New Mexico Pediatric Society

New York
Association on Aging in New York
CCNY, Inc
Children's Aid
COFCCA
Elder Justice Committee of Metro Justice
Family Ties of Westchester, Inc.
Forestdale, Inc.
Hudson Valley LGBTQ Community Center
Lifespan of Greater Rochester
Neighborhood SHOPP
New York State Coalition on Elder Abuse
Northern Rivers Family of Services
NYS AAP - Chapter 2
NYS AAP - Chapter 3

CC: Members of Congress

North Carolina
Children's Home Society of North Carolina
Cumberland County Department of Social Services
Durham County Department of Social Services
Masonic Home for Children at Oxford
NC Pediatric Society
North Carolina Association of County Directors of Social Services (NCACDSS)
North Carolina Partnership to Address Adult Abuse
Pitt County Department of Social Services
Rapid Resource for Families

North Dakota
North Dakota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
North Dakota Human Service Zone Director Association

Ohio
Adams County Children Services
Athens County Children Services
Auglaize County Department of Job & Family Services
Columbiana County Department of Job and Family Services
Coshocton County DJFS
Crime Victim Services
Cuyahoga County Advisory Board on Senior and Adult Services
Directions for Youth & Families
Fulton County Job & Family Services
Gallia County Department of Job and Family Services
Greene County Dept. of Job & Family Services
Guernsey County Children Services
Hamilton County Job & Family Services
Henry County Job & Family Services
Jackson County Department of Job and Family Services
Knox County Family Connections
Lawrence County Department of Job and Family Services
Logan County Children's Services
Lucas County Children Services Board
Madison County Dept of Job and Family Services
Meigs County Department of Job and Family Services
Miami County Job and Family Services
Morgan County Job & Family Services
Muskingum County Department of Job and Family Services
Noble County Department of Job & Family Services
Ohio Coalition of Adult Protective Service
Ohio Federation for Health Equity and Social Justice
Ohio Grandparent Kinship Coalition
Ohio Job and Family Services Directors Association

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Ottawa County Department of Job and Family Services
Perry County Job & Family Services
Pike County Department of Job and Family Services
Public Children Services Association of Ohio
Seneca County Department of Job and Family Services
Shelby County Department of Job and Family Services
Trumbull County Children Services
Washington County Children Services
Wood JFS
Wyandot County Job and Family Services

Oklahoma
Oklahoma State Council on Aging

Oregon
Oregon Association of Area Agencies on Aging and Disabilities (O4AD)
Oregon Department of Human Services - Child Welfare Division
Prevent Child Abuse Oregon

Pennsylvania
Center for Advocacy for the Rights and Interests of Elders (CARIE)
Center for Leadership Development and Advocacy, Inc.
Congreso
Family Care for Children and Youth, Inc
Humane PA
Jewish Family Service of Greater Harrisburg, Inc.
Meals on Wheels of PA
PA Chapter, American Academy of Pediatrics
Pennsylvania Adult Day Services Association
Pennsylvania Association for the Education of Young Children
Pennsylvania Association of Area Agencies on Aging (P4A)
Pennsylvania Council of Children, Youth & Family Services
Pennsylvania Partnerships for Children
Pennsylvania Senior Center Association
TRAC Services for Families
Turning Points for Children
University of Pittsburgh, School of Social Work, Pennsylvania Child Welfare Resource Center
Voce

Puerto Rico
Proyecto Nacer

Rhode Island
Saint Elizabeth Haven for Elder Justice
Rhode Island Coalition for Children and Families

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South Carolina
HALOS
Lowcountry Area Agency on Aging
South Carolina Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics
South Carolina Department of Social Services, Adult Protective Services

South Dakota
South Dakota Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Tennessee
Memphis Child Advocacy Center
Tennessee Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

Texas
Abrazo Adoption Associates
Saint Francis Ministries
Texas Alliance of Child & Family Services
Texas Alliance for Youth Success
Texas Pediatric Society

Utah
Raise the Future
Tooele County Aging Services

Vermont
Vermont Association of Area Agencies on Aging
Voices for Vermont's Children

Virginia
C2Adopt Supporting Your Lifetime Adoption Journey
Children's Home Society of Virginia
Friends Association for Children
Giles County Department of Social Services
Grayson County Department of Social Services
Loudoun County Board of Supervisors
Lynchburg Human Services
Paths for Families
People Places Inc
Virginia Coalition for the Prevention of Elder Abuse

Washington
Washington State Adult Protective Services

West Virginia
TEAM for West Virginia Children
WVSU Metro Area Agency on Aging

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Wisconsin
Crawford County Health & Human Services Department
Greater Wisconsin Agency on Aging Resources
WI Association of Family & Children's Agencies
Wisconsin Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics (WIAAP)
Wisconsin County Human Services Association

Wyoming
Wyoming Chapter of the American Academy of Pediatrics

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State & Local Examples:

Georgia: SSBG funds are used to support critical Adult Protective Services (APS) functions including intake staff and travel reimbursement for home visits. Intake staff process calls from reporters, web reporting, and fax reporting as well as providing resources to the caller. These staff members are the first touch point many have with APS and losing staff would be a detriment to the program.

Hawaii: SSBG funds are critical for the State of Hawaii's Adult Protective and Community Services program. These funds are used to staff essential positions investigating abuse to vulnerable adults and as well as for important training for a highly skilled workforce.

Indiana: REAL Services, Inc. serves 30,000 older adults in Northern Indiana. They provide Home and Community Based Services to 49 clients through SSBG. Nearly half of these older adult clients are at a high nutritional risk, and 98% of all clients have at least one critical need that is being met by this program. Without SSBG funding, REAL Services would not be able to serve Home Delivered Meals to their homebound clients.

Michigan: Nearly a quarter of APS staff are funded by SSBG. The state budget would not be able to absorb the loss and vulnerable adults would be placed at higher risk. APS has only recently been elevated in importance in the state and loss of SSBG would cripple all gains.

Minnesota: Brown County uses SSBG funds to fund child welfare services, APS, services to individuals with disabilities and child care. According to the county, there is no other source of state or local funding that could cover the loss of SSBG dollars, and therefore, services would have to be reduced or eliminated. In Chippewa County, Minnesota, SSBG serves similar functions. If eliminated, the county would have to absorb the $310,000 that this covers for helping provide services that keep its most vulnerable populations safe. This would cost the county another 2.5 percent increase on the county levy, representing a significant financial burden for the small rural county. Stearns County, Minnesota would also be forced to reduce services (including APS, child welfare, and services to individuals with disabilities) for nearly 6,000 county residents, with older adult residents in the county facing possible institutionalization due to the loss of in-home supports.

Missouri: One of the ways that Missouri uses SSBG is to fund adoption and foster care programs throughout the state, serving nearly 25,000 children each year through these programs. The MO Department of Social Services noted that loss of SSBG funds would be “catastrophic”for these foster care and adoption programs, as the state would not be able to make up the funding and would have to make significant cuts to programs.

New Jersey: In federal FY25, New Jersey received $43.3 million in Social Services Block Grant (SSBG) to fund case management for children and families involved in the child protection system and in adoptions. It also funds staff salaries, building security and general maintenance. Without it, New Jersey could be working with fewer case managing staff, which could mean caseloads that exceed our state law, fewer home visits, less support for families’ reunification, longer periods of foster care, less secure facilities for staff and higher staff turnover due to burn-out.

Ohio: United Senior Services (USS) provides over 30 services to 4,000 members and 3,000 clients across Clark County. SSBG funding makes it possible for USS to offer 909 congregate meals and nearly 2,000

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Home Delivered Meals. A loss of SSBG funding would result in a one-month service interruption at three of their congregate meals sites and would cut 1,740 Home Delivered Meals.

Ohio: Wayne County uses SSBG funds to support Adult Protective Services (APS) and child welfare, as well as adult senior day care services, home-based services for seniors, support for a domestic violence shelter, case management for at-risk youth in schools, and transportation services for individuals to and from dialysis and chemotherapy. According to the county, SSBG is one of the few revenue streams that allows it to serve certain populations of vulnerable adults, and many senior services would be curtailed or terminated without this funding stream. Similarly, Miami County, Ohio relies on SSBG to support the provision of mental health services at a counseling center, legal services for women and children who are fleeing DV situations, and a Family Abuse Shelter, along with services to individuals with disabilities, APS and child welfare services. There is no other source of state or local funding to cover the elimination of those dollars.

Pennsylvania: Erie County, Pennsylvania uses SSBG funds for mental health administrative case management. Without these funds, the county would face a 25 percent reduction in its funding for these services, which coordinate supports for roughly 1350 individuals. Similarly, Crawford County, Pennsylvania uses its SSBG allocation to support in home community habilitation services for individuals with intellectual disabilities and to support mental health services at the county drop in center, which saw a caseload of 743 individuals in 2024.

South Carolina: SSBG has fully funded the APS program. Losing this funding would be devastating and the nearly 6,000 vulnerable adults served every year would be negatively affected. In one case, SC APS was involved in a case where a 71 year old veteran who was a double amputee faced severe caregiver neglect. APS was able to get a deep cleaning of the home and make needed structural repairs for accessibility. They were also able to connect her to Veterans Administration benefits and support her son as a caregiver. Not only did this allow the veteran to remain in her own home it brought significant savings through reduced EMS calls and prevention of the need for state assistance. Without SSBG, vulnerable South Carolinians would not have these same services.

Texas: Meals on Wheels Plus, Inc., which serves 1,738 clients in Abilene, TX and an additional 14 small rural communities across five counties in central Texas, depends on SSBG funds for nearly half of its total budget. This organization does not receive any other federal dollars and experienced a significant funding shortfall last year, with SSBG funds covering meals for only one thousand of their clients - leaving three hundred individuals on a waitlist to receive critical services. Elimination of SSBG funding would not only be catastrophic for Meals on Wheels Plus and the older adults they serve, but for impacted Meals on Wheels providers across the country.

Wisconsin: SSBG funds are included in Community Aids – flexible funding streams for county governments that can be used for child welfare, behavioral health, disability services and adult protective services. Statewide, SSBG funds serve 86,000 children and 37,000 adults. Eliminating SSBG would represent a significant cost shift to county governments in Wisconsin, leading to a reduction in services.

CC: Members of Congress