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Dear Aging Network Advocate:

I am happy to report that the State Office for the Aging has received approval of our Federal Funding and Policy Priorities for the First Session of the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress (2007). As in the past, this document was prepared by Sandy Longworth, our Director of Federal Relations, in consultation with Greg Olsen, our new Deputy Director of the Executive Division.

Last week my staff participated in an Intergovernmental Affairs meeting between agency/authority and the Governor's staff. This meeting, chaired by Marty Mack, Deputy Secretary for Intergovernmental Affairs, included presentations by staff responsible for federal, legislative, regional, community and New York City affairs from both the Governor's and Lieutenant Governor's offices.

Our federal priorities cover four primary areas. The first section -- FFY 2008 Appropriations -- Programs and Services for Seniors -- includes our funding recommendations for the implementation of the Older Americans Act Amendments of 2006, as well as for services under the State Health Insurance and Assistance Program, the Low Income Home Energy Assistance Program, senior transportation, senior housing, Real Choices Systems Change and Money Follows the Person Demonstrations grants, geriatric education, the Social Services Block Grant, the Community Services Block Grant, and Lifespan Respite Care funding. The second section covers the reauthorization of the Farm Bill that includes funding for the Senior Farmers' Market Nutrition Program. The third section includes the authorization of new programs including the Elder Justice Act, changes to the Medicare Savings Program, older worker legislation, strengthening and amending Medicare Part D, 2-1-1 legislation and elimination of Medicare therapy caps. And, fourth, the social insurance issues of Medicare and Social Security reform are addressed. While some of these priorities will be resolved in the 110<sup>th</sup> Congress, others will continue as priorities now and into the future.

Please share this document with others in the aging network. If you have questions or need additional information, please contact Sandy Longworth at (518) 474-0529 or e-mail her at [sandy.longworth@ofa.state.ny.us](mailto:sandy.longworth@ofa.state.ny.us).

Cordially,

Michael J. Burgess

