FOR USE BY ORGANIZATIONS TO THEIR LOCAL NEWS OUTLETS

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**NEWS RELEASE**

Contact: [Your Contact Information]

Release Date: [Enter date]

**PREVENT CUTS. PROTECT AGING IN RURAL MINNESOTA**

Without your voice greater Minnesota stands to lose critical support for community-based services. TheMinnesota Board on Aging is tasked to create an equitable funding formula. The outcome of the proposed formula would mean funding cuts to outstate Minnesota; this includes [Your Area of the State]. The existing formula is heavily weighted on population and not need. We need a formula that works for rural Minnesota. Locally, the cuts would affect organizations such as [List Local Programs], and other senior programs. We need your help to prevent these cuts. Protecting aging in our communities assures that our neighbors, families, and friends can age well at home. When aging in place is supported, the entire community benefits. Beyond the health and wellness benefits, community members can benefit from the wisdom older adults share through their life experiences.

The Older Americans Act (OAA) funds critical services that keep our nation's seniors healthy and independent, including meals, homemaker assistance, chores, caregiver support, transportation, and more. Paramount to the successful leveraging of OAA funds is the requirement that these funds be the payer of last resort. States and regions have the duty of exhausting all other funding options first. OAA services are often the only services available in our greater Minnesota communities. Additionally, rural Minnesota lacks robust philanthropic funding or a booming network of non-profits to step in and fill gaps when needed. Therefore, it is imperative that OAA funding is allocated to afford rural Minnesotans the same opportunities as the Metro area population.

Rural communities face closed hospitals or unreachable health care services, a deepened digital divide, lost jobs at industries economically anchoring rural communities, and greater food insecurity for older adults. The need for a conversation around rural service funding seems more critical than ever. The challenges to providing services in rural environments include limited transportation options and poorly maintained roads, older housing needing repairs, limited senior housing, and limited technology in areas, including broadband. Several services would be decreased in the [Your Area of the State] region, including Meals on Wheels, grocery delivery, free trips to medical appointments, social gatherings, and shopping. The cuts also include adult day programs, snow removal, lawncare, and respite for caregivers.

As a community that values older adults, we are tasked with the charge to voice our concern for the decrease in funding. How do we value and support aging in rural communities? **By reaching out to our state and county elected officials regarding the intrastate funding formula and asking them to provide public comment.  For easy access to state and county elected officials go to** [www.GreaterMinnesotaAging.org](http://www.GreaterMinnesotaAging.org) **and PREVENT CUTS! PROTECT AGING IN THE** [Your Area of the State]. **or call** 800-722-5545 for further info.

**###**

**PSA RELEASE**

Contact:

Release Date:

**PREVENT CUTS. PROTECT AGING IN THE ARROWHEAD.**

The area on aging region stand to lose a portion of Older Americans Act dollars. This means cuts to Meals on Wheels, adult day programs, and free transportation. It is imperative that this funding is allocated to afford rural Minnesotans the same opportunities as the Metro area. You can show how much you value and support aging in the area**. Provide comment and contact your state and county elected officials and ask them to provide public comment regarding the intrastate funding formula. For easy access to state and county elected officials go to** [www.arrowheadaging.org](http://www.arrowheadaging.org) **and scroll to PREVENT CUTS! PROTECT AGING or call** 800-722-5545 for more info.