The original documents are located in Box 20, “11/28/75 - Talking Points: Signing of "Older Americans Amendments of 1975" (Not used)” of the President’s Speeches and Statements: Reading Copies at the Gerald R. Ford Presidential Library.

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THE WHITE HOUSE
WASHINGTON

DATE 11/28/75

TO: TERRY O'DONNELL

FROM: SARAH MASSENGALE

Terry, here are the talking points, if they decide on the signing ceremony.

No signing ceremony
TALKING POINTS:

SIGNING OF "OLDER AMERICANS AMENDMENTS OF 1975"

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1975
1. I am today signing H.R. 3922 which amends and extends the Older Americans Act for three years.

As a member of the House of Representatives, I supported the Older Americans Act, when it first was enacted ten years ago. I supported subsequent amendments to it.
THESE LATEST REVISIONS ARE THE RESULT OF TEN YEARS OF EXPERIENCE

IN TRYING TO EASE THE DIFFICULT BURDENS OF FAR TOO MANY

ELDERLY AMERICANS.
2. DESPITE SOME OBJECTIONS TO CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THIS BILL, I AGREE WITH THE BASIC CONCEPTS OF THE AMENDED OLDER AMERICANS ACT TO COORDINATE SERVICES AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL AND TO PROMOTE INDEPENDENCE AMONG THE ELDERLY.
WITH THE PERCENTAGE OF AMERICANS OVER 64 INCREASING AT A MORE
RAPID RATE THAN THE GENERAL POPULATION, EMPHASIS MUST BE PLACED
ON OPPORTUNITIES FOR OLDER AMERICANS TO CONTINUE ACTIVE
PARTICIPATION IN OUR NATIONAL LIFE.
3. This bill stresses services available to enable older Americans to live at home and involves community leaders in deciding the programs needed in their own areas. Self-help and local decision-making must become increasingly important elements in the drafting of legislation.
4. THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT RELATING TO AGE DISCRIMINATION HAVE BEEN MODIFIED TO MEET MANY, BUT NOT ALL ADMINISTRATION OBJECTIONS. IN ADDITION, I AM CONCERNED ABOUT THE HIGH AUTHORIZATION LEVELS INCLUDED IN THIS BILL.
I URGE CONGRESS TO WORK WITH THE ADMINISTRATION IN DETERMINING APPROPRIATION LEVELS FOR THIS ACT WHICH WILL BE ADEQUATE BUT NOT INFLATIONARY. I AM SURE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS SHARE MY CONCERN ABOUT THE DISTRESSING IMPACT OF INFLATION ON THE ELDERLY AND WILL COOPERATE IN OUR EFFORTS TO CURB INFLATION.
5. This bill should help more older Americans stay out of isolation and keep them in the mainstream of community life, where their wisdom and contributions are needed.

END OF TEXT
TALKING POINTS:

SIGNING OF "OLDER AMERICANS AMENDMENTS OF 1975"

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 28, 1975

1. I AM TODAY SIGNING H.R. 3922 WHICH AMENDS AND EXTENDS THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT FOR THREE YEARS.

AS A MEMBER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, I SUPPORTED THE OLDER AMERICANS ACT, WHEN IT FIRST WAS ENACTED TEN YEARS AGO. I SUPPORTED SUBSEQUENT AMENDMENTS TO IT.
THESE LATEST REVISIONS ARE THE RESULT OF TEN YEARS OF EXPERIENCE IN TRYING TO EASE THE DIFFICULT BURDENS OF FAR TOO MANY ELDERLY AMERICANS.

2. DESPITE SOME OBJECTIONS TO CERTAIN PROVISIONS OF THIS BILL, I AGREE WITH THE BASIC CONCEPTS OF THE AMENDED OLDER AMERICANS ACT TO COORDINATE SERVICES AT THE COMMUNITY LEVEL AND TO PROMOTE INDEPENDENCE AMONG THE ELDERLY.
WITH THE PERCENTAGE OF AMERICANS OVER 64 INCREASING AT A MORE RAPID RATE THAN THE GENERAL POPULATION, EMPHASIS MUST BE PLACED ON OPPORTUNITIES FOR OLDER AMERICANS TO CONTINUE ACTIVE PARTICIPATION IN OUR NATIONAL LIFE.

3. THIS BILL STRESSES SERVICES AVAILABLE TO ENABLE OLDER AMERICANS TO LIVE AT HOME AND INVOLVES COMMUNITY LEADERS IN DECIDING THE PROGRAMS NEEDED IN THEIR OWN AREAS. SELF-HELP AND LOCAL DECISION-MAKING MUST BECOME INCREASINGLY IMPORTANT ELEMENTS IN THE DRAFTING OF LEGISLATION.
4. The provisions of this act relating to age discrimination have been modified to meet many, but not all administration objections. In addition, I am concerned about the high authorization levels included in this bill.

I urge Congress to work with the administration in determining appropriation levels for this act which will be adequate but not inflationary. I am sure members of Congress share my concern about the distressing impact of inflation on the elderly and will cooperate in our efforts to curb inflation.
5. THIS BILL SHOULD HELP MORE OLDER AMERICANS STAY OUT
OF ISOLATION AND KEEP THEM IN THE MAINSTREAM OF COMMUNITY LIFE,
WHERE THEIR WISDOM AND CONTRIBUTIONS ARE NEEDED.

END OF TEXT
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4. THE PROVISIONS OF THIS ACT RELATING TO AGE DISCRIMINATION HAVE BEEN MODIFIED TO MEET MANY, BUT NOT ALL ADMINISTRATION OBJECTIONS. IN ADDITION, I AM CONCERNED ABOUT THE HIGH AUTHORIZATION LEVELS INCLUDED IN THIS BILL.

I URGE CONGRESS TO WORK WITH THE ADMINISTRATION IN DETERMINING APPROPRIATION LEVELS FOR THIS ACT WHICH WILL BE ADEQUATE BUT NOT INFLATIONARY. I AM SURE MEMBERS OF CONGRESS SHARE MY CONCERN ABOUT THE DISTRESSING IMPACT OF INFLATION ON THE ELDERLY AND WILL COOPERATE IN OUR EFFORTS TO CURB INFLATION.
5. This bill should help more older Americans stay out of isolation and keep them in the mainstream of community life, where their wisdom and contributions are needed.