



Dear Deputy Secretary Myers,

I hope this note finds you well. The NC Coalition on Aging knows that these last few months have been a very challenging time for the Department of Health and Human Services. We appreciate all that you and the Department have done to be responsive to the multitude of issues that have evolved during this pandemic. We are also very thankful for what you have done to support the work of the Division of Aging and Adult Services while Joyce Massey-Smith has been out on medical leave.

The Coalition was very pleased to see that Part III, Section 3.3 (37) of the recently passed CoVID-19 Crisis Bill (H.B. 10430) includes the authorization to use funding directed to the Department for adult protective services (APS) response. As you are aware, increased funding for APS has long been a priority of the Coalition. Confirmed cases of APS are increasing at an unprecedented rate, and we are afraid that data will show that there is a further spike in reported cases resulting from the challenges of COVID-19.

As the Department begins to make plans for the distribution of the funding authorized by the General Assembly, we ask that significant funding be provided to county departments of social services who struggle to find the resources to adequately serve vulnerable older adults and persons with disabilities in need of protective services. If there is anything the Coalition can do to help the Department in its efforts pertaining to this, please let me know.

When your schedule allows, we would welcome you to attend and speak at one of our monthly Coalition on Aging meetings. Mary Bethel told me you were scheduled to speak at a meeting last year and had to cancel due to a family situation that came up. There are many issues relating to aging now that our members would appreciate hearing from you about.

Again, thank you for all you are doing to support the Division of Aging and Adult Services and programs and services for older adults in our state. We look forward to hearing about funding for adult protective services and having you join us for a future Coalition meeting.

Sincerely,

Allison Costanzo
Executive Director
919.699.4867
executivedirector@nccoalitiononaging.org