

Legislative Action Priorities During the 111th Congress

The following legislative action priorities are presented within categories of leadership, partnership, and support. Consistent with these priorities, Generations United will emphasize policies and programs that meet the needs of children, youth, and older adults in the current economic crisis and critical investments that build toward a more stable and secure future for all generations.

Leadership

These first tier priorities are those for which Generations United will take a leadership role. Issues in this category will receive the highest possible attention from GU where appropriate and feasible. We will advocate for these priorities before Congress and the Administration, organize and participate in Hill visits and other public education activities, initiate sign-on letters and host briefings. GU's leadership priorities are:

- *To give priority to communities that commit to building facilities that serve both young and old in economic recovery efforts such as schools, child care centers, and senior centers.*
- *To ensure policies are in place to guarantee grandfamilies benefit from the Fostering Connections to Success and Increasing Adoptions Act of 2008 and to work with the Department of Health and Human Services to assure both appropriate and prompt implementation guidance and reporting requirements are established to measure the impact of the Act's numerous provisions.*
- *To support intergenerational civic engagement by promoting policies that expand the number and diversity of volunteers in quality intergenerational programs and the number of innovative*

intergenerational program opportunities, including those that reach out to boomers.

Partnership

These are areas in which Generations United will work within coalitions to achieve our goals, but will not take a leadership role. As resources permit, we will advocate before Congress and the Administration, co-sponsor briefings and sign-on letters, monitor legislation and inform members. GU's partnership priorities are:

- *To expand access to affordable, quality, and comprehensive health care coverage to all people in the United States and invest in key health care strategies across the lifespan that produce efficient and cost-effective outcomes for all generations.*
- *To restore full funding to the Social Services Block Grant.*
- *To expand access and eligibility, especially for low-income children and older adults; improve meal quality and nutrition; and streamline application procedures, and program and paperwork requirements in the reauthorization of federal food programs.*
- *To expand and improve respite care services for grandparent and other relative caregivers, for example through funding the Lifespan Respite Care Act.*
- *To improve access, especially for low-income working families, to high-quality early childhood programs, including Head Start and Early Head Start, child care, and voluntary universal birth to school-age early education and care programs.*

Support

GU stands by the remaining issues in this Public Policy Agenda and will sign on to letters and attend meetings on these subjects where appropriate.