NANASP RESOLUTIONS
Labor-HHS Appropriations

WHEREAS: Congress has begun work on the Labor-HHS Appropriations for FY 2009.

WHEREAS: The President’s budget proposal called for an overall decrease of $28 million dollars from 2008 funding for the Older Americans Act, including flat funding for the nutrition programs.

WHEREAS: The Older Americans Act has only experienced a 5% increase from FY2002-FY2008 and is $380 million below the funding level that would reflect inflation and increased demand since FY2002.

WHEREAS: The Elderly Nutrition Program provides more than just a meal to the millions of seniors it serves across the nation. In 2005, 93% of home delivered meals clients reported that the meals allowed them to continue to live in their own home. 80% said the service allow them to eat a greater variety of healthy foods.

WHEREAS: The elderly nutrition programs have been severely impacted by the current economy. Critical food items such as milk, eggs, ground beef, bread and fruit have encountered double digit increases. Further rising gas and utility prices are crippling many programs and reducing volunteer help.

WHEREAS: The President’s budget also would eliminate funding for the Community Services Block Grant, the Supplemental Commodity Food Program and would cut funding for the Social Services Block from $1.7 billion to $1.2 billion.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: NANASP is encouraged by the funding levels produced to date in the FY 2009 Labor HHS Appropriations bills especially the House’s $50 million increase in funding for the nutrition programs and provisions in both the House and Senate bill which restore funds to programs eliminated in the President’s budget including Community Service Block Grant, Preventive Health in the Older Americans Act and which reject cuts in the Social Services Block Grant.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT: NANASP as a member of the Leadership Council of Aging organizations will continue to advocate for the LCAO position in favor of a 9% percent across the board increase in all programs under the Older Americans Act in FY 2009.
NANASP RESOLUTIONS
H.R. 6127, S. 3108

WHEREAS: Representative James McGovern (D-MA) introduced H.R. 6127, with 5 co-sponsors, to require the President to call a White House Conference on Food and Nutrition to be held no later than 12/31/2010.

WHEREAS: Senator John Kerry (D-MA) introduced S. 3108, with 5 co-sponsors, to require the President to call a White House Conference on Food and Nutrition to be held no later than 12/31/2010.

WHEREAS: 40 years have passed since the United States convened a White House Conference to discuss the issues of food, hunger, and nutrition.

WHEREAS: Estimates show that the true cost of hunger and illness related to malnutrition in America is at least $90 billion a year, more than half of which is paid by Medicare and Medicaid.

WHEREAS: Appropriate food and nutrition can save the United States billions of dollars in health care costs by preventing or delaying the progression to late-stage disease for tens of millions of Americans who live with chronic diseases, such as diabetes, HIV, AIDS, and heart disease.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: NANASP supports a White House Conference on Food and Nutrition and urges Congress to pass H.R.6127 and S. 3108 to provide the necessary authority to hold the Conference in 2010 and to allow planning work to begin in 2009 for the Conference.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: NANASP supports its active involvement in a White House conference on Food and Nutrition once authorized.
NANASP RESOLUTIONS
Elder Justice Act

WHEREAS: The bi-partisan Elder Justice Act H.R. 1783 and S. 1070 was introduced in the 110th Congress.

WHEREAS: to date H.R. 1783 has been reported out of the House Judiciary Committee. S. 1070 awaits action in the Senate Finance Committee.

WHEREAS: The number of instances of elder abuse reported to Adult Protective Services increased 20% from 2000 to 2004. Among the perpetrators of these crimes, 80% were a family member or loved one.

WHEREAS: Of all federal funds spent on abuse prevention, less than 2% are spent on elder abuse.

WHEREAS: The average victim of elder abuse is a woman over the age of 75 living alone, the same demographic most likely to receive home delivered meals.

WHEREAS: H.R. 1783 and S. 1070 would establish a more comprehensive federal commitment to fight elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation and create better targeted federal funding for elder abuse prevention. The Elder Justice Act would provide the first ever dedicated federal funding for adult protective services and improve training and investigations. It would provide grants to improve ombudsman capacity and require immediate reporting to law enforcements of crimes in a long-term care facility. It would also create a National Training Institute for Surveyors of long-term care facilities and an Elder Justice Coordinating Council to foster coordination throughout the federal government on elder abuse topics.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: NANASP, as a member of the Elder Justice Coalition supports the Elder Justice Act and urges its final passage in the 110th Congress.
NANASP RESOLUTIONS
Digital Television Transition

WHEREAS: On February 17th, 2009, all television except low-powered stations are converting from analog to digital signal.

WHEREAS: The conversion to digital television affects an estimated 20 million individuals, including 8 million seniors.

WHEREAS: The number of steps involved in the conversion to digital television are daunting for many senior citizens. This includes determining if they need to be converted, ordering and redeeming coupons, and having the converter box or some other alternative installed and operating.

WHEREAS: Of the more than 16.5 million coupons ordered, only 3 million were redeemed in the first 90 day period for redemption.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: NANASP, as a member of the Keeping Seniors Connected Coalition, supports the immediate release of federal funds to the aging network to assist in education and outreach activities and to help seniors with the installation of converter boxes to achieve a successful conversion to digital TV without interruption of service.
WHEREAS: Congress has begun work on the FY 2009 Appropriations for the Department of Agriculture.

WHEREAS: President Bush’s budget again called for the elimination of the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, which serves low income seniors with nutritional needs.

WHEREAS: Congress finally completed action on a five year extension of the Farm Bill, including key nutrition programs such as Food Stamps (now called the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs), the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, and the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program.

WHEREAS: The FY 2009 Agriculture Appropriations bill is the first to be enacted after the Farm bill and the improvements it made in nutrition programs.

NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: NANASP calls on Congress to enact the FY 2009 Agriculture Appropriations bill and have it reflect increased funding from $15 million to $20.6 million a year for the Senior Farmers Market Nutrition Program, restoration and continued funding for the Commodity Supplemental Food Program, and both an increase in the minimum benefit under the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Programs and improved outreach to eligible seniors.