Aging advocates, Program and Service providers and everyone concerned about the impending potential cuts to older adult programs:

Aging programs and services across the country, and certainly here in North Carolina, face the very real possibility of serious immediate cuts in funding due to the sequester that will occur if the federal government does not take action by January 2nd, 2013 to save seniors from these cuts. Cuts would be made in Discretionary programs (such as aging programs); however, some Discretionary programs have already been saved from the axe and will not face any reductions to their budgets. Unfortunately Aging programs were not among those protected. This ultimately means that the bulk of all the cuts will be taken from the some of the smallest programs in the federal budget!

We need you, those you work with and seniors to contact your legislators to tell them that the government cannot balance the budget on the backs of seniors who rely on these programs to remain independent in their own homes. Budget cuts would result in more hospital visits and nursing home placements for frail seniors who fail to receive services.

The [attachment to this article](http://www.ptrc.org/modules/showdocument.aspx?documentid=1812) explains the sequester and how to advocate for older adults. PTRCAAA is currently working on a document for North Carolina’s Association of Area Agencies on Aging (NC4A) to tell the story of how the sequester will devastate North Carolina’s older population. To help us, please send any photos and stories of what the loss of services would mean to real people. Let’s put their faces and stories in front of our legislators.

If you have any questions regarding this issue, please contact me.

Thank you in advance for your efforts!