

October 2018

## AgeOptions Advocacy Task Force Members Meet with Representative on Older Americans Act



*The delegation meeting with Rep. Krishnamoorthi, left to right:*

*Spencer Harsted, Community Nutrition Network; Megan Conway, Schaumburg Township; Stacy Subida, Catholic Charities; Tracey Colagrossi, Hanover Township; Santosh Kumar, Metropolitan Asian Family Services; Congressman Raja Krishnamoorthi, Illinois Eighth Congressional District; Carol Reagan, Palatine Township Senior Services; Jonathan Lavin, AgeOptions; Crissy Castillo, Kenneth Young Center.*

Members of the AgeOptions Advocacy Task Force met with U.S. Representative Raja Krishnamoorthi in August to talk about the upcoming reauthorization of the Older Americans Act (OAA). First enacted in 1965 and reauthorized every decade, the OAA was the first federal level initiative aimed at providing comprehensive services for older adults.

With the OAA up for reauthorization in 2019, Bill Benson and Kendra Kuehn of Health Benefits ABCs advised the Advocacy Task Force to reach out to Congressman Krishnamoorthi, who serves on the U.S. House Committee on Education and the Workforce, which has jurisdiction over the Older Americans Act. Benson is a former staff director for the Senate Labor Subcommittee on Aging and oversaw the successful reauthorization of the OAA in 1992.

At the meeting in Rep. Krishnamoorthi's Schaumburg District Office, Advocacy Task Force members discussed how the OAA works in his district and asked that he continue to be on the authorizing House committee and be an advocate for OAA programs.