

SOUTH ORANGE VILLAGE
Municipal Offices
76 South Orange Ave
Suite 302
South Orange
Essex County
New Jersey 07079

www.southorange.org
P 973.378.7715
F 973.763.0987



RESOLUTION #2026-217

September 14, 2026

A RESOLUTION OF THE MAYOR AND VILLAGE COUNCIL OF SOUTH ORANGE URGING THE PROTECTION AND RESTORATION OF ESSENTIAL HEALTHCARE AND NUTRITION BENEFITS FOR OLDER ADULTS

WHEREAS, South Orange is proud to be home to a substantial population of older adults whose decades of work, volunteerism, military service, caregiving, civic participation, and contributions have strengthened our community; and

WHEREAS, South Orange is committed to being a community where older adults can age with dignity, independence, and security and, as a member of the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities, has advanced programs, policies, and initiatives that support aging in place and help older residents remain active, connected, and engaged; and

WHEREAS, this commitment is further advanced through South Orange's Senior Citizen Advisory Committee, which identifies and assesses the needs of older residents, recommends solutions to the governing body, and helps advance programs and policies that improve their quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the ability to successfully age in place depends upon both strong local support and access to affordable healthcare, nutritious food, prescription medications, long-term care, home- and community-based services, and other resources that allow older adults to remain healthy and independent; and

WHEREAS, approximately 12.9 percent of South Orange's population is age 65 or older, underscoring the importance of ensuring that older residents have the resources and support necessary to remain healthy, independent, and secure in the community; and

WHEREAS, according to the U.S. Census Bureau's American Community Survey, 623 South Orange older adults live alone, 595 live with a disability, 247 are enrolled in Medicaid, 2,157 are enrolled in Medicare, 109 older-adult households receive Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program ("SNAP") benefits, and 81 older residents are military veterans who have honorably served our nation; and

WHEREAS, throughout South Orange, 3,795 residents receive public health insurance, including 1,599 residents enrolled in Medicaid, demonstrating the critical importance of these programs to the health, well-being, and financial security of our community; and



WHEREAS, Medicaid is particularly important to older adults because it provides coverage for services that Medicare may not fully cover, including long-term services and supports and certain home- and community-based services that can make the difference between an older adult remaining safely at home and requiring institutional care; and

WHEREAS, SNAP similarly serves as an important protection against food insecurity for lower-income older adults, particularly those living on fixed or limited incomes, and helps ensure access to adequate and nutritious food; and

WHEREAS, on July 4, 2025, H.R. 1, subsequently enacted as Public Law 119-21, was signed into law, making significant changes to Medicaid and SNAP eligibility, financing, enrollment, and administration and reducing projected federal expenditures for both programs; and

WHEREAS, the Congressional Budget Office estimates that the law will reduce projected federal Medicaid outlays by approximately \$1.2 trillion and SNAP outlays by approximately \$211 billion through 2035, while changing Medicaid eligibility and enrollment procedures and shifting a greater share of certain SNAP costs to state governments; and

WHEREAS, the New Jersey Department of Human Services has projected significant impacts in New Jersey, including that more than 300,000 NJ FamilyCare participants could ultimately lose healthcare coverage, together with reductions in federal healthcare funding, reductions in SNAP participation and benefits, increased administrative burdens, and additional costs shifted to the State and counties; and

WHEREAS, while certain new Medicaid eligibility requirements do not directly apply to adults age 65 and older, reductions in healthcare funding, pressures on providers and long-term-care systems, changes to nutrition assistance, increased administrative costs, and cost shifts to state and county governments can affect the broader network of services upon which older adults depend; and

WHEREAS, South Orange has worked to make it possible for older residents to remain in their homes and community, and the Mayor and Village Council believe that federal policy should reinforce, rather than undermine, the healthcare, nutrition, economic security, and supportive services necessary to make aging in place a realistic option; and

WHEREAS, no older adult should be forced to choose among groceries, housing costs, prescription medications, and necessary medical care, and protecting the ability of older adults to age safely and with dignity reflects our responsibility to the generations who have built and sustained our community;



NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Mayor and Village Council of South Orange that the governing body hereby urges Representative Analilia Mejia and United States Senators Cory Booker and Andy Kim to support federal legislative and budgetary actions that protect and, where reduced or eliminated, restore funding, eligibility, benefits, and services under Medicaid, SNAP, and other essential programs upon which older adults depend, including long-term services and supports, home- and community-based services, access to affordable healthcare and prescription medications, and nutrition assistance that enable older adults to remain healthy, financially secure, and safely in their homes and communities; and

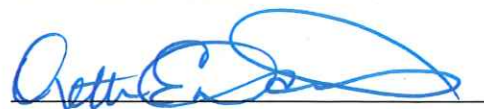
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Mayor and Village Council urge Governor Mikie Sherrill and the members of the New Jersey Legislature representing South Orange to continue efforts to protect older New Jerseyans from disruptions in healthcare and nutrition assistance and to advocate for sufficient federal resources to sustain these programs without imposing unsustainable additional burdens upon state, county, or municipal taxpayers; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED, that South Orange reaffirms its commitment as a member of the AARP Network of Age-Friendly States and Communities and to the continued work of its Senior Citizen Advisory Committee and the SOMA Two Towns for All Ages initiative to make South Orange a community in which older adults can remain healthy, independent, financially secure, socially connected, and actively engaged.

Council Member	Motion	Second	Ayes	Nays	Abstain	Absent
Canning		X	X			
Greenberg	X		X			
Haskins			X			
Jones			X			
Lewis-Chang			X			
Zollman			X			

CERTIFICATION

I, Ojetti E. Davis, Village Clerk of South Orange Village, County of Essex, State of New Jersey, do hereby certify that this is a true and correct copy of the Resolution adopted by the South Orange Village Council at their regular meeting held on Monday, September 14, 2026.


Ojetti E. Davis
Village Clerk