

Recent Legislation in Family Caregiving

Recognize, Assist, Include, Support, and Engage (RAISE) Family Caregivers Act

H.R. 3099 and S. 1719

Requires the Secretary of Health and Human Services to develop, maintain and update an integrated national strategy to recognize and support family caregivers. Brings together relevant federal agencies and others from private and public sectors to advise and make recommendations regarding the national strategy.

Sponsor: Representative Greg Harper (R-MS); Senator Susan Collins (R-ME)

Americans Giving Care to Elders (AGE) Act

H.R. 5196 and S. 879

Provides a tax credit for family caregivers caring for a parent or grandparent for up to \$6,000; increases funding for the National Family Caregiver Support Program and; creates a National Resource Center on Family Caregiving.

Sponsor: Representative Steve Israel (D-NY); Senator Amy Klobuchar (D-MN)

Credit for Caring Act

H.R. 4708 and S. 2759

Provides for a tax credit of up to \$3,000 for qualified families to help defray the costs of caring for a loved one. This credit would be available to caregivers of persons across the lifespan (adult or for a child with a disability).

Sponsor: Representative Tom Reed (R-NY); Senator Joni Ernst (R-IA)

Alzheimer's Beneficiary and Caregiver Support Act

H.R. 5681 and S. 3137

Allows CMS to test supportive models for family caregivers of Medicare beneficiaries diagnosed with dementia. The models include individual and family counseling sessions, follow-up assessments, support groups and ad hoc counseling or consultations, depending on the health of the applicable Medicare beneficiary.

Sponsor: Representative Linda Sanchez (D-CA); Senator Shelly Moore Capito (R-WV)

Social Security Caregiver Credit Act

H.R. 3377 and S. 2721

Provides a social security credit to be added to a person's total career earnings and used to calculate future social security benefits. This is a progressive benefit for caregivers who spend at least 80 hours a month providing care. This includes caregivers of a parent, aunt, uncle, grandchild, niece, nephew, spouse, or domestic partner.

Sponsors: Representative Nita Lowey (D-NY); Senator Chris Murphy (D-CT)

The Caregiver Advise, Record, Enable (CARE) Act

The Caregiver Advise, Record, Enable (CARE) Act has received bipartisan support from state lawmakers across the country. While slightly different in each state, the CARE Act has three common essential elements. The law requires that hospitals:

1. Record the name of the family caregiver on the medical record of your loved one.
2. Inform the family caregiver when the patient is to be discharged.
3. Provide the family caregiver with education and live instruction of the medical tasks he or she will need to perform for the patient at home.

The CARE Act has been passed in nearly 35 states and counting.