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Elevating the Caregiver Voice in Medical Debt

With National Family Caregiver Month almost upon us, I've been reflecting on the stories I hear of family caregivers struggling with the costs of care, including medical debt. This is an issue that's personal to me.

My family lost my paternal grandmother to cancer when I was just a baby. Throughout her illness, my grandfather served as her primary caregiver, guiding her through complex treatments while grappling with mounting hospital bills. He remained devoted to her until the very end.

The impact of this profound loss—both emotional and financial—loomed large in our family. My grandfather confronted two immense challenges: grieving his wife's

loss while managing the debt from her care. This dual burden of loss and financial strain left an indelible mark, shaping our family for generations to come.



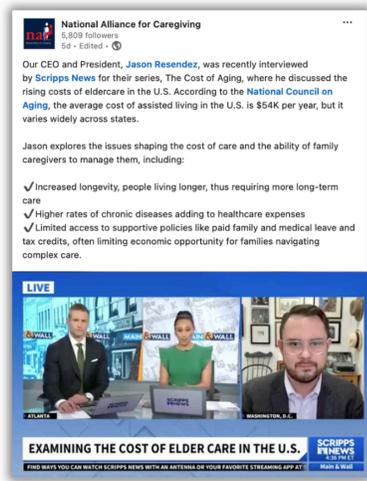
Me and my paternal grandmother Elva.

That's why I'm encouraged that the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau (CFPB) is taking action to protect those burdened by medical debt. In June, the agency announced a rulemaking process to strengthen the 2003 Fair and Accurate Credit Transactions Act to prevent creditors from using medical debt in their credit decisions. It's a welcome step to stop penalizing families for seeking medical care and supports a more equitable playing field for those who need credit.

In response to the Proposed Rule, the National Alliance for Caregiving (NAC) submitted two public comments on behalf of the [Act on RAISE Coalition](#) and the [Cancer Caregiving Collaborative](#). Our collective efforts highlighted a crucial point: tackling medical debt is essential to safeguard the financial stability of family caregivers.

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