

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1146

To amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to require the Assistant Secretary for Aging to identify and disseminate best practices for the National Family Caregiver Support program, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

APRIL 11, 2019

Mr. CASEY (for himself and Ms. COLLINS) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to require the Assistant Secretary for Aging to identify and disseminate best practices for the National Family Caregiver Support program, and for other purposes.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Supporting Caregivers
5 Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. NATIONAL FAMILY CAREGIVER SUPPORT PRO-**
 2 **GRAM.**

3 (a) IN GENERAL.—Section 214 of the Older Ameri-
 4 cans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3020e) is amended—

5 (1) in the section heading, by striking “**NUTRI-**
 6 **TION EDUCATION**” and inserting “**TITLE III RE-**
 7 **LATED ACTIVITIES**”;

8 (2) by striking “The Assistant Secretary” and
 9 inserting the following:

10 “(a) NUTRITION EDUCATION.—The Assistant Sec-
 11 retary”; and

12 (3) by adding at the end the following:

13 “(b) NATIONAL FAMILY CAREGIVER SUPPORT PRO-
 14 GRAM.—

15 “(1) BEST PRACTICES.—Not later than 1 year
 16 after the date of enactment of the Supporting Care-
 17 givers Act, and every 2 years thereafter, the Assist-
 18 ant Secretary shall—

19 “(A) identify best practices relating to the
 20 program carried out under section 373, includ-
 21 ing—

22 “(i) procedures and tools to assess the
 23 needs of caregivers;

24 “(ii) procedures and tools to monitor
 25 and evaluate the performance of State pro-
 26 grams under such section;

1 “(iii) the development and use of care-
2 giver service plans;

3 “(iv) the use of evidence-based care-
4 giver support services;

5 “(v) the implementation of State pro-
6 grams under such section;

7 “(vi) best practices identified by the
8 Family Caregiving Strategy under section
9 3 of the RAISE Family Caregivers Act (42
10 U.S.C. 3030s note) and best practices
11 identified by the Family Caregiving Advi-
12 sory Council under section 4 of that Act;
13 and

14 “(vii) any other issue determined rel-
15 evant by the Assistant Secretary;

16 “(B) disseminate the best practices de-
17 scribed in subparagraph (A) to all State agen-
18 cies, all area agencies on aging, and any entity
19 that has contracted with an area agency on
20 aging to carry out the services under section
21 373; and

22 “(C) make such best practices available to
23 the public.

24 “(2) GRANTS OR CONTRACTS FOR ACTIVITIES
25 OF NATIONAL SIGNIFICANCE.—The Assistant Sec-

1 retary shall make grants to or enter into contracts
 2 with States, public or private nonprofit agencies or
 3 organizations, institutions of higher education, or
 4 other organizations, including tribal organizations,
 5 for conducting activities of national significance to
 6 promote quality and continuous improvement in the
 7 support provided to family caregivers and older rel-
 8 ative caregivers through the program carried out
 9 under section 373 through activities that include,
 10 with respect to such program, program evaluation,
 11 training, technical assistance, and research.

12 “(3) ADMINISTRATIVE EXPENSES.—Of the
 13 funds appropriated under section 216 to carry out
 14 this subsection for a fiscal year, not more than 5
 15 percent may be used by the Administration for ad-
 16 ministrative expenses.

17 “(4) DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms
 18 ‘child’, ‘individual with a disability’, and ‘older rel-
 19 ative caregiver’ have the meanings given those terms
 20 in section 372.”.

21 (b) AVAILABILITY OF FUNDS.—Section 373(g)(2)(C)
 22 of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3030s–
 23 1(g)(2)(C)) is amended to read as follows:

24 “(C) LIMITATION.—

1 “(i) IN GENERAL.—A State may not
2 use more than 15 percent of the total Fed-
3 eral and non-Federal share available to the
4 State to provide support services to older
5 relative caregivers.

6 “(ii) REQUEST.—An area agency on
7 aging may submit a request to the State
8 for a fiscal year to exceed 15 percent of
9 the total Federal and non-Federal share
10 available to the area agency on aging to
11 provide support services to older relative
12 caregivers. The State shall grant such re-
13 quest for such fiscal year to the area agen-
14 cy on aging that submits such request if—

15 “(I) the request includes a dem-
16 onstrated need within the service area
17 of such area agency on aging; and

18 “(II) the State determines that,
19 if it grants such request, the State
20 will be able to comply with the limita-
21 tion under clause (i) for the fiscal
22 year.

23 “(iii) REPORTS.—To the extent prac-
24 ticable, the Assistant Secretary shall pre-

1 pare, and make available to the public, an
2 annual report on—

3 “(I) how many requests were
4 granted under clause (ii) during the
5 year covered by the report;

6 “(II) for each request granted,
7 the percentage of total Federal and
8 total non-Federal funding used to
9 serve older relative caregivers by geo-
10 graphic location of such request dur-
11 ing the year covered by the report;

12 “(III) the number of family care-
13 givers and older relative caregivers re-
14 ceiving support services within the
15 service area of each individual area
16 agency on aging nationwide;

17 “(IV) the number of family care-
18 givers and older relative caregivers re-
19 ceiving support services within the
20 service area of each individual area
21 agency on aging nationwide, disaggre-
22 gated by each service described in
23 paragraphs (1) through (5) of sub-
24 section (b); and

1 “(V) any other information deter-
2 mined appropriate by the Assistant
3 Secretary.

4 “(iv) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—
5 Nothing in clause (ii) shall exempt a State
6 from complying with the limitation under
7 clause (i) for a fiscal year.”.

8 (c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Section
9 216(b) of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C.
10 3020f(b)) is amended—

11 (1) in paragraph (3), by striking “; and” and
12 inserting “;”;

13 (2) in paragraph (4), by striking the period and
14 inserting “; and”; and

15 (3) by adding at the end the following:

16 “(5) to carry out section 214(b) (relating to the
17 National Family Caregiver Support program)
18 \$3,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2020 through
19 2024.”.

20 (d) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 411(a) of
21 the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3032(a)) is
22 amended—

23 (1) by striking paragraph (11); and

- 1 (2) by redesignating paragraphs (12) through
- 2 (14) as paragraphs (11) through (13), respectively.

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