

114TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 1719

To provide for the establishment and maintenance of a National Family Caregiving Strategy, and for other purposes.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 8, 2015

Ms. COLLINS (for herself, Ms. BALDWIN, Ms. AYOTTE, Mr. BENNET, and Ms. MIKULSKI) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To provide for the establishment and maintenance of a National Family Caregiving Strategy, 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 “Recognize, Assist, In-
5 clude, Support, and Engage Family Caregivers Act of
6 2015” or the “RAISE Family Caregivers Act”.

7 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

8 In this Act:

1 (1) **ADVISORY COUNCIL.**—The term “Advisory
2 Council” means the Family Caregiving Advisory
3 Council convened under section 4.

4 (2) **FAMILY CAREGIVER.**—The term “family
5 caregiver” means a relative, partner, friend, or
6 neighbor who has a significant relationship with, and
7 who provides a broad range of assistance for, a per-
8 son with a chronic or other health condition, dis-
9 ability, or functional limitation.

10 (3) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means
11 the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

12 (4) **STRATEGY.**—The term “Strategy” means
13 the National Family Caregiving Strategy estab-
14 lished, maintained, and updated under section 3.

15 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL FAMILY CAREGIVING STRATEGY.**

16 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary, in consultation
17 with the heads of other appropriate Federal agencies, shall
18 develop, maintain, and periodically update a National
19 Family Caregiving Strategy.

20 (b) **CONTENTS.**—The Strategy shall identify specific
21 actions that Federal, State, and local governments, com-
22 munities, health care, long-term services and supports and
23 other providers, employers, and others can take to recog-
24 nize and support family caregivers in a culturally com-
25 petent manner, including with respect to the following:

1 (1) Promoting greater adoption of person- and
2 family-centered care in all health and long-term
3 services and supports settings, with the person re-
4 ceiving services and supports and the family care-
5 giver (as appropriate) at the center of care teams.

6 (2) Assessment and service planning (including
7 care transitions and coordination) involving family
8 caregivers and care recipients.

9 (3) Training and other supports.

10 (4) Information, education, referral, and care
11 coordination, including hospice, palliative care, and
12 advance planning services.

13 (5) Respite options.

14 (6) Financial security.

15 (7) Workplace policies and supports that allow
16 family caregivers to remain in the workforce.

17 (c) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SECRETARY.—The
18 Secretary, in carrying out this section, shall be responsible
19 for the following:

20 (1) Collecting and making publically available
21 information, including evidence-based or promising
22 practices and innovative models (both domestically
23 and internationally) regarding the provision of care
24 by family caregivers or support for family caregivers.

1 (2) Coordinating Federal Government programs
2 and activities to recognize and support family care-
3 givers while ensuring maximum effectiveness and
4 avoiding unnecessary duplication.

5 (3) Providing technical assistance, such as best
6 practices and information sharing, to State or local
7 efforts, as appropriate, to support family caregivers.

8 (4) Addressing disparities in recognizing and
9 supporting family caregivers and meeting the needs
10 of the diverse family caregiving population.

11 (5) Assessing all Federal programs regarding
12 family caregivers, including with respect to funding
13 levels.

14 (d) INITIAL STRATEGY; UPDATES.—The Secretary
15 shall—

16 (1) not later than 18 months after the date of
17 enactment of this Act, develop, publish, and submit
18 to Congress the initial Strategy incorporating the
19 items addressed in the Advisory Council’s report in
20 section 4(d)(2) and other priority actions for recog-
21 nizing and supporting family caregivers; and

22 (2) not less than annually, update, republish,
23 and submit to Congress the Strategy, taking into ac-
24 count the most recent annual report submitted
25 under section 4(d)(1)—

1 (A) to reflect new developments, chal-
2 lenges, opportunities, and solutions; and

3 (B) to assess progress in implementation
4 of the Strategy and, based on the results of
5 such assessment, recommend priority actions
6 for such implementation.

7 (e) PROCESS FOR PUBLIC INPUT.—The Secretary
8 shall establish a process for public input to inform the de-
9 velopment of, and updates to, the Strategy, including a
10 process for the public to submit recommendations to the
11 Advisory Council and an opportunity for public comment
12 on the proposed Strategy.

13 (f) NO PREEMPTION.—Nothing in this Act preempts
14 any authority of a State or local government to recognize
15 or support family caregivers.

16 **SEC. 4. FAMILY CAREGIVING ADVISORY COUNCIL.**

17 (a) CONVENING.—The Secretary shall convene a
18 Family Caregiving Advisory Council to provide advice to
19 the Secretary on recognizing and supporting family care-
20 givers.

21 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—

22 (1) IN GENERAL.—The members of the Advi-
23 sory Council shall consist of—

24 (A) the Federal members under paragraph

25 (2); and

1 (B) the appointed members under para-
2 graph (3).

3 (2) FEDERAL MEMBERS.—The Federal mem-
4 bers of the Advisory Council shall consist of the fol-
5 lowing:

6 (A) The Administrator of the Centers for
7 Medicare & Medicaid Services (or the Adminis-
8 trator's designee).

9 (B) The Administrator of the Administra-
10 tion for Community Living (or the Administra-
11 tor's designee who has experience in both aging
12 and disability).

13 (C) The Assistant Secretary for the Ad-
14 ministration for Children and Families (or the
15 Assistant Secretary's designee).

16 (D) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs (or
17 the Secretary's designee).

18 (E) The Secretary of Labor (or the Sec-
19 retary's designee).

20 (F) The Secretary of the Treasury (or the
21 Secretary's designee).

22 (G) The National Coordinator for Health
23 Information Technology (or the National Coor-
24 dinator's designee).

1 (H) The heads of other Federal depart-
2 ments or agencies (or their designees), as ap-
3 pointed by the President or the Chair of the
4 Advisory Council.

5 (3) APPOINTED MEMBERS.—In addition to the
6 Federal members under paragraph (2), the Sec-
7 retary shall appoint not more than 15 members of
8 the Advisory Council who are not representatives of
9 Federal departments or agencies and who shall in-
10 clude at least one representative of each of the fol-
11 lowing:

12 (A) Family caregivers.

13 (B) Older adults with long-term services
14 and supports needs, including older adults fac-
15 ing disparities.

16 (C) Individuals with disabilities.

17 (D) Advocates for family caregivers, older
18 adults with long-term services and supports
19 needs, and individuals with disabilities.

20 (E) Health care and social service pro-
21 viders.

22 (F) Long-term services and supports pro-
23 viders.

24 (G) Employers.

1 (H) Direct care workers or advocates for
2 such workers.

3 (I) State and local officials.

4 (J) Accreditation bodies.

5 (K) Relevant industries.

6 (L) Veterans.

7 (M) As appropriate, other experts in family
8 caregiving.

9 (4) DIVERSE REPRESENTATION.—The Sec-
10 retary shall ensure that the membership of the Advi-
11 sory Council reflects the diversity of—

12 (A) the overall population; and

13 (B) family caregivers.

14 (c) MEETINGS.—The Advisory Council shall meet
15 quarterly. Meetings of the Advisory Council shall be open
16 to the public.

17 (d) ADVISORY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORTS.—

18 (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 15 months
19 after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually
20 thereafter, the Advisory Council shall submit to the
21 Secretary and Congress a report concerning the de-
22 velopment, maintenance, and updating of the Strat-
23 egy and the implementation thereof, including a de-
24 scription of the outcomes of the recommendations
25 and priorities under paragraph (2), as appropriate.

1 Such report shall be made publically available by the
2 Advisory Council.

3 (2) INITIAL REPORT.—The Advisory Council’s
4 initial report under paragraph (1) shall include—

5 (A) an inventory and assessment of all fed-
6 erally funded efforts to recognize and support
7 family caregivers and the outcomes of such ef-
8 forts, including analyses of the extent to which
9 federally funded efforts are reaching family
10 caregivers and gaps in such efforts;

11 (B) recommendations for priority actions—

12 (i) to improve and better coordinate
13 programs; and

14 (ii) to deliver services based on the
15 performance, mission, and purpose of a
16 program while eliminating redundancies
17 and ensuring the needs of family caregivers
18 are met;

19 (C) recommendations to reduce the finan-
20 cial impact and other challenges of caregiving
21 on family caregivers; and

22 (D) an evaluation of how family caregiving
23 impacts the Medicare program, and Medicaid
24 program, and other Federal programs.

1 **SEC. 5. SHARING OF DATA.**

2 The heads of Federal departments and agencies, as
3 appropriate, shall share with the Secretary any data that
4 is—

5 (1) maintained by the respective department or
6 agency; and

7 (2) needed by the Secretary to prepare the ini-
8 tial and updated Strategies under section 3(d).

9 **SEC. 6. SUNSET PROVISION.**

10 The authority and obligations established by this Act
11 shall terminate on December 31, 2030.

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