

118TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. 3437

To amend the Social Security Act to authorize grants and training to support area agencies on aging and other community-based organizations in addressing social isolation among older individuals and adults with disabilities.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

DECEMBER 7, 2023

Mr. CASEY (for himself and Mr. MURPHY) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Finance

A BILL

To amend the Social Security Act to authorize grants and training to support area agencies on aging and other community-based organizations in addressing social isolation among older individuals and adults with disabilities.

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 “Addressing Social Iso-
5 lation and Loneliness in Older Adults Act of 2023” or the
6 “Addressing SILO Act of 2023”.

1 **SEC. 2. GRANTS AND TRAINING TO SUPPORT AREA AGEN-**
 2 **CIES ON AGING OR OTHER COMMUNITY-**
 3 **BASED ORGANIZATIONS TO ADDRESS SOCIAL**
 4 **ISOLATION AMONG OLDER INDIVIDUALS AND**
 5 **ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES.**

6 Part II of subtitle B of title XX of the Social Security
 7 Act (42 U.S.C. 1397m et seq.) is amended by adding at
 8 the end the following:

9 **“SEC. 2047. GRANTS AND TRAINING TO SUPPORT AREA**
 10 **AGENCIES ON AGING OR OTHER COMMUNITY-**
 11 **BASED ORGANIZATIONS TO ADDRESS SOCIAL**
 12 **ISOLATION AMONG OLDER INDIVIDUALS AND**
 13 **ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES.**

14 “(a) GRANTS.—The Secretary shall make grants to
 15 eligible area agencies on aging or other community-based
 16 organizations for the purpose of—

17 “(1) conducting outreach to older individuals
 18 and adults with disabilities at risk for, or already ex-
 19 perienceing, social isolation or loneliness, through es-
 20 tablished screening tools or other methods identified
 21 by the Secretary;

22 “(2) developing community-based interventions
 23 for the purposes of mitigating loneliness or social
 24 isolation (including evidence-based programs, as de-
 25 fined by the Secretary, developed with multi-stake-
 26 holder input for the purposes of promoting social

1 connection, mitigating social isolation or loneliness,
2 or preventing social isolation or loneliness) among
3 older individuals and adults with disabilities de-
4 scribed in paragraph (1);

5 “(3) connecting such older individuals and
6 adults with disabilities with community social and
7 clinical supports; and

8 “(4) evaluating the effect of programs devel-
9 oped and implemented under paragraphs (2) and
10 (3).

11 “(b) TRAINING.—

12 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall estab-
13 lish programs to provide and improve training for
14 area agencies on aging or community-based organi-
15 zations with respect to addressing and preventing
16 social isolation and loneliness among older individ-
17 uals and adults with disabilities.

18 “(2) PRIORITIZATION AUTHORITY.—For pur-
19 poses of connecting at-risk individuals with existing
20 community social and clinical supports, the Sec-
21 retary may, in carrying out paragraph (1), prioritize
22 models that incorporate training and service delivery
23 in coordination with medical-legal partnerships.

24 “(c) EVALUATION.—Not later than 3 years after the
25 date of enactment of this section and every 3 years there-

1 after, the Secretary shall submit to Congress a written re-
 2 port that assesses the extent to which the programs estab-
 3 lished under this section address social isolation and lone-
 4 liness among older individuals and adults with disabilities.

5 “(d) APPROPRIATION.—Out of any money in the
 6 Treasury not otherwise appropriated, there is appro-
 7 priated to the Secretary \$62,500,000 for each of fiscal
 8 years 2024 through 2028, to remain available until ex-
 9 pended, to carry out this section.

10 “(e) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall coordinate
 11 with resource centers, grant programs, or other funding
 12 mechanisms established under section 411(a)(18) of the
 13 Older Americans Act (42 U.S.C. 3032(a)(18)), section
 14 417(a)(1) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 3032f(a)(1)), or other
 15 programs as determined by the Secretary.

16 “(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

17 “(1) ADULT WITH A DISABILITY.—The term
 18 ‘adult with a disability’ means an individual with a
 19 disability as defined in section 372 of the Older
 20 Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3030s).

21 “(2) AREA AGENCY ON AGING.—The term ‘area
 22 agency on aging’ means an area agency on aging
 23 designated under section 305 of such Act (42 U.S.C.
 24 3025).

1 “(3) COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION.—The
 2 term ‘community-based organization’ includes, ex-
 3 cept as otherwise provided by the Secretary, a non-
 4 profit community-based organization, a consortium
 5 of nonprofit community-based organizations, a na-
 6 tional nonprofit organization acting as an inter-
 7 mediary for a community-based organization, or a
 8 community-based organization that has a fiscal
 9 sponsor that allows the organization to function as
 10 an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the
 11 Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from
 12 taxation under section 501(a) of such Code.

13 “(4) LONELINESS.—The term ‘loneliness’
 14 means subjectively feeling alone, or the discrepancy
 15 between one’s desired level of social connection and
 16 one’s actual level of social connection.

17 “(5) OLDER INDIVIDUAL.—The term ‘older in-
 18 dividual’ has the meaning given such term in section
 19 102 of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C.
 20 3002).

21 “(6) SOCIAL CONNECTION.—The term ‘social
 22 connection’ means the variety of ways one can con-
 23 nect with others socially, through physical, behav-
 24 ioral, social-cognitive, and emotional channels.

1 “(7) SOCIAL ISOLATION.—The term ‘social iso-
2 lation’ means objectively being alone, or having few
3 relationships or infrequent social contact.”.

