

115TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 6646

To amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to authorize services to be provided to individuals with Alzheimer’s disease or a related disorder with neurological and organic brain dysfunction who have not attained 60 years of age.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

JULY 31, 2018

Miss RICE of New York introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

A BILL

To amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to authorize services to be provided to individuals with Alzheimer’s disease or a related disorder with neurological and organic brain dysfunction who have not attained 60 years of age.

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 “Younger-Onset Alz-
5 heimer’s Disease Parity Act”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

7 Congress finds the following:

1 (1) When Alzheimer’s disease occurs in some-
2 one under the age of 65, it is known as younger-
3 onset (or early-onset) Alzheimer’s disease.

4 (2) About 5 percent of Americans with Alz-
5 heimer’s disease, or approximately 250,000 people,
6 are living with younger-onset Alzheimer’s disease.

7 (3) Individuals with younger-onset Alzheimer’s
8 disease primarily show symptoms of the disease be-
9 ginning in their 50s, but some show signs of the dis-
10 ease as early as their 30s or 40s.

11 (4) For most individuals with younger-onset
12 Alzheimer’s disease, the symptoms will closely mirror
13 those of other forms of Alzheimer’s disease.

14 (5) Those with younger-onset Alzheimer’s dis-
15 ease may have difficulty obtaining an accurate diag-
16 nosis because health care providers don’t generally
17 look for Alzheimer’s disease in younger people.
18 Symptoms are often incorrectly attributed to stress,
19 or there may be conflicting diagnoses from different
20 health care professionals.

21 (6) Those with younger-onset Alzheimer’s dis-
22 ease may worry about work, retirement, and finan-
23 cial issues. Their condition may lead them to volun-
24 tarily quit their job, or their employers may fire
25 them before a diagnosis. This premature loss of

1 work does not trigger the employment disability ac-
2 commodations that a diagnosed individual would re-
3 ceive.

4 (7) Those with younger-onset Alzheimer's dis-
5 ease will suffer from higher levels of stigma because
6 Alzheimer's disease is more often associated with
7 older adults. This often adversely impacts family,
8 personal, and professional relationships.

9 (8) Those with younger-onset Alzheimer's dis-
10 ease are often supporting young children who are
11 living in the home. Many times these children also
12 serve as caregivers.

13 (9) Those with younger-onset Alzheimer's dis-
14 ease may have a working spouse who has to decide
15 between continuing to work to support the household
16 or leaving the working world to be the primary care-
17 giver of their loved one living with Alzheimer's dis-
18 ease.

19 (10) The Older Americans Act of 1965, enacted
20 in 1965, authorizes the provision of essential serv-
21 ices to Americans age 60 or over, with particular at-
22 tention given to those individuals with low incomes
23 or disabilities.

24 (11) Services provided under the Act include
25 Alzheimer's disease education, meal delivery, family

1 caregiver support, and supportive services such as
2 home care, adult day care, and transportation.

3 (12) These services are particularly helpful for
4 those with a degenerative disease such as Alz-
5 heimer's disease in which sufferers ultimately re-
6 quire assistance with basic daily tasks.

7 (13) These services also provide vital assistance,
8 support, and respite to family caregivers and help to
9 maintain the independence of the individual living
10 with younger-onset Alzheimer's disease.

11 (14) The Older Americans Act 1965 uniquely
12 authorizes services that can assist individuals with
13 younger-onset Alzheimer's disease and their families.

14 **SEC. 3. PARITY FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH YOUNGER-ONSET**
15 **ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE.**

16 Section 102(40) of the Older Americans Act of 1965
17 (42 U.S.C. 3002(40)) is amended by inserting before the
18 period at the end the following:

19 “and includes an individual with Alzheimer's disease
20 or a related disorder with neurological and organic
21 brain dysfunction who has not attained 60 years of
22 age”.

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