

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 4477

Making emergency supplemental appropriations for social isolation services
under the Older Americans Act of 1965.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

AUGUST 6, 2020

Ms. SMITH (for herself and Mrs. GILLIBRAND) introduced the following bill;
which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Appropriations

A BILL

Making emergency supplemental appropriations for social
isolation services under the Older Americans Act of 1965.

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 “Strengthening Social
5 Connections Act of 2020”.

6 **SEC. 2. SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS.**

7 The following sums are hereby appropriated, out of
8 any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated,
9 for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2021, and for
10 other purposes, namely:

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN
SERVICES

ADMINISTRATION FOR COMMUNITY LIVING
AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES PROGRAMS

For an additional amount for “Aging and Disability Services Programs”, for carrying out the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) (“OAA”), \$104,000,000, to remain available through September 30, 2022, of which—

(1) \$80,000,000 shall be made available for supportive services under part B of title III of such Act (42 U.S.C. 3030d et seq.), provided that such amount made available under this paragraph shall be made available for prevention and mitigation activities focused on addressing extended social isolation among older individuals, which may include activities for investments in technological equipment and solutions or other strategies aimed at alleviating the negative health effects of social isolation due to long-term stay-at-home recommendations for older individuals for the duration of the coronavirus pandemic;

(2) \$18,000,000 shall be made available for activities authorized under sections 202(a)(33),

1 202(b)(11), and 411(a)(18) of such Act (42 U.S.C.
2 3012(a)(33), 3012(b)(11), and 3032(a)(18)), pro-
3 vided that such amount made available under this
4 paragraph shall be made available for—

5 (A) technical assistance to State agencies,
6 area agencies on aging, aging services and nu-
7 trition providers, and other community groups,
8 to reduce the negative health effects of social
9 isolation and loneliness among older individuals
10 by promoting social engagement; and

11 (B) coordinated efforts to prioritize activi-
12 ties that prevent and address social isolation
13 and loneliness among a wide range of older in-
14 dividuals, including activities for strategies that
15 identify best practices, support demonstration
16 of innovative approaches in the aging services
17 network, conduct public education, develop
18 partnerships and collaborations to advance pro-
19 gram objectives, or enhance the capacity of the
20 aging network, and other activities as appro-
21 priate to mitigate social isolation and loneliness
22 among older individuals; and

23 (3) \$6,000,000 shall be made available for
24 aging network support activities, provided that such
25 amount made available under this paragraph shall

1 be used to develop targeted outreach strategies to
2 reach particularly at-risk populations, including—

3 (A) populations targeted under section
4 306(a)(4)(A)(i)(I) of such Act (42 U.S.C.
5 3026(a)(4)(A)(i)(I)); and

6 (B) older individuals whose needs were the
7 focus of centers funded under title IV of such
8 Act (42 U.S.C. 3031 et seq.) for fiscal year
9 2019:

10 *Provided*, That, notwithstanding section 304(d)(1)(D) of
11 the OAA (42 U.S.C. 3024(d)(1)(D)) or any other provi-
12 sion in such Act, the requirement for a non-Federal share
13 under such section shall not apply for fiscal year 2021
14 with respect to services under part B of title III of such
15 Act: *Provided further*, That the amount appropriated
16 under this heading is designated by Congress as being for
17 an emergency requirement pursuant to section
18 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency
19 Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(b)(2)(A)(i)).

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