

119TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

S. _____

To amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to make grants to develop or expand in-person and virtual peer support programs for family caregivers.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. MARKEY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on _____

A BILL

To amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to make grants to develop or expand in-person and virtual peer support programs for family caregivers.

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 “Family Caregiver Peer
5 Support Act”.

1 **SEC. 2. PEER SUPPORT PROGRAMS FOR FAMILY CARE-**
2 **GIVERS.**

3 Title IV of the Older Americans Act of 1965 is
4 amended by inserting after section 414 (42 U.S.C. 3032c)
5 the following:

6 **“SEC. 415. PEER SUPPORT PROGRAMS FOR FAMILY CARE-**
7 **GIVERS.**

8 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

9 “(1) DISABILITY.—The term ‘disability’ has the
10 meaning given such term in section 3 of the Ameri-
11 cans with Disabilities Act of 1990 (42 U.S.C.
12 12102).

13 “(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-
14 tity’ means—

15 “(A) a State;

16 “(B) a nonprofit organization;

17 “(C) an institution of higher education (as
18 defined in section 101 of the Higher Education
19 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001));

20 “(D) an aging and disability network enti-
21 ty;

22 “(E) a junior or community college (as de-
23 fined in section 312(f) of the Higher Education
24 Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1058(f));

1 “(F) an Indian Tribe (as defined in section
2 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Edu-
3 cation Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)); or

4 “(G) a Tribal organization (as defined in
5 section 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and
6 Education Assistance Act (25 U.S.C. 5304)).

7 “(3) FAMILY CAREGIVER.—The term ‘family
8 caregiver’ has the meaning given such term in sec-
9 tion 2 of the RAISE Family Caregivers Act (42
10 U.S.C. 3030s note) and includes paid and unpaid
11 family caregivers.

12 “(4) IMMIGRANT.—The term ‘immigrant’ has
13 the meaning given the term ‘alien’ in section 101(a)
14 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C.
15 1101(a)).

16 “(5) PEER SUPPORT PROGRAM.—The term
17 ‘peer support program’ includes a program, to assist
18 family caregivers, that—

19 “(A) is carried out with the best practices
20 identified under section 373(e);

21 “(B) consists of activities of national sig-
22 nificance described in or conducted under sec-
23 tion 373(i); or

1 “(C) consists of activities described in or
2 conducted under section 411(a)(11) or
3 417(a)(1)(F).

4 “(b) GRANTS.—The Secretary may make grants to
5 eligible entities to develop or expand in-person and virtual
6 peer support programs for family caregivers.

7 “(c) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity receiving a
8 grant under this section may use the funds awarded
9 through such grant—

10 “(1) to develop or expand in-person and virtual
11 peer support programs, including programs under
12 which family caregivers assist other family care-
13 givers with navigating administrative or financial
14 forms, policies, and processes and provide emotional
15 support;

16 “(2) to carry out workforce development, re-
17 cruitment, and retention activities to train, recruit,
18 and retain certified peer support specialists; and

19 “(3) to develop, expand, or improve virtual,
20 peer, mental, and behavioral health support services
21 for family caregivers carried out by the entity, in-
22 cluding language access services, including trans-
23 lation and interpretation services for family care-
24 givers—

1 “(A) for whom English is not their pri-
2 mary language; or

3 “(B) who use American Sign Language.

4 “(d) IDENTIFICATION OF UNDERSERVED COMMU-
5 NITIES.—The Secretary shall identify regions and popu-
6 lations that are underserved with respect to peer support
7 programs for family caregivers.

8 “(e) PRIORITY.—In making grants under this sec-
9 tion, the Secretary shall give priority to eligible entities
10 that propose to serve or currently serve—

11 “(1) underserved regions and populations iden-
12 tified under subsection (d);

13 “(2) low-income communities;

14 “(3) underserved racial and ethnic commu-
15 nities;

16 “(4) communities with a high number of immi-
17 grants;

18 “(5) communities with a high number of indi-
19 viduals for whom English is not their primary lan-
20 guage;

21 “(6) the LGBTQ+ community;

22 “(7) family caregivers younger than age 35; or

23 “(8) family caregivers with a disability.

1 “(f) OUTREACH PROGRAM.—The Secretary shall con-
2 duct outreach to family caregivers to increase awareness
3 about the availability of grants under this section.

4 “(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
5 is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary to carry
6 out this section \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2026
7 through 2030.”.