

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 2312

To amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to establish the Office of Inclusivity and Sexual Health and a rural outreach grant program carried out by that Office, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

APRIL 12, 2019

Ms. HAALAND (for herself, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. MENG, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PAPPAS, and Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and Labor

A BILL

To amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to establish the Office of Inclusivity and Sexual Health and a rural outreach grant program carried out by that Office, 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 “Elder Pride Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

6 Section 102 of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42
7 U.S.C. 3002) is amended—

1 (1) in paragraph (24)—

2 (A) in subparagraph (B) by striking “and”
3 at the end,

4 (B) in subparagraph (C)(ii) by striking the
5 period at the end and inserting “; and”, and

6 (C) by adding at the end the following:

7 “(D) status as an LGBT individual and
8 HIV status”.”,

9 (2) by redesignating paragraphs (34) through
10 (54) as paragraphs (35) through (55), respectively,
11 and

12 (3) by inserting after paragraph (33) the fol-
13 lowing:

14 “(34) The term ‘LGBT’ means lesbian, gay, bi-
15 sexual, or transgender.”.

16 **SEC. 3. OFFICE OF INCLUSIVITY AND SEXUAL HEALTH.**

17 Section 201 of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42
18 U.S.C. 3011) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
19 lowing:

20 “(g)(1) There is established in the Administration an
21 Office of Inclusivity and Sexual Health (referred to in this
22 subsection as the ‘Office’).

23 “(2)(A) The Office shall be headed by a Director of
24 Inclusivity and Sexual Health (referred to in this sub-

1 section as the ‘Director’) who shall be appointed by the
2 Secretary.

3 “(B) The Office shall include an Assistant Director
4 of LGBT Policy (referred to in this subsection as the ‘As-
5 sistant Director’) who shall be appointed by the Director
6 to assist the Director in carrying out this subsection, in-
7 cluding by carrying out the activities under paragraph (4).

8 “(3) The Director shall—

9 “(A) coordinate activities within the Depart-
10 ment of Health and Human Services, and between
11 other Federal departments and agencies, to assure a
12 continuum of improved services for LGBT older in-
13 dividuals and older individuals of a protected class;

14 “(B) promote a continuum of improved sexual
15 health services for older individuals, including by en-
16 suring access to services for LGBT older individuals
17 and older individuals of a protected class;

18 “(C) collect and disseminate information related
19 to the challenges experienced by older individuals of
20 a protected class and all older individuals trying to
21 seek sexual health services, including information on
22 the rise of sexually transmitted diseases among the
23 population of older individuals; and

24 “(D) administer and evaluate grants that will
25 help LGBT older individuals, older individuals of a

1 protected class, and all older individuals seeking sex-
2 ual health services, including grants under section
3 423.

4 “(4) The Assistant Director shall—

5 “(A) serve as the effective and visible advocate
6 on behalf of LGBT older individuals—

7 “(i) within the Department of Health and
8 Human Services and with other departments
9 and agencies of the Federal Government re-
10 garding all Federal policies affecting such indi-
11 viduals; and

12 “(ii) in the States to promote the enhanced
13 delivery of services and implementation of pro-
14 grams, under this Act and other Federal Acts,
15 for the benefit of such individuals;

16 “(B) support, conduct, and arrange for re-
17 search in the field of LGBT aging with a special em-
18 phasis on gathering statistics on LGBT older indi-
19 viduals;

20 “(C) collect and disseminate information related
21 to challenges experienced by LGBT older individuals
22 with an emphasis on the challenges experienced by
23 LGBT older individuals residing in rural areas and
24 LGBT older individuals living with human immuno-

1 deficiency virus and acquired immune deficiency syn-
2 drome (HIV/AIDS); and

3 “(D) recommend policies and priorities bene-
4 ficial to LGBT older individuals and promote the
5 implementation and adoption of culturally competent
6 care and services for such individuals.

7 “(5) Not later than 5 years after the date of enact-
8 ment of this Act and every 5 years thereafter, the Director
9 shall submit to Congress a report describing the activities
10 carried out under this subsection during the preceding 5
11 years.”.

12 **SEC. 4. RURAL OUTREACH GRANT PROGRAM.**

13 Part A of title IV of the Older Americans Act of 1965
14 (42 U.S.C. 3032 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
15 the following:

16 **“SEC. 423. RURAL OUTREACH GRANT PROGRAM.**

17 “(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

18 “(1) DIRECTOR.—The term ‘Director’ means
19 the Director of the Office of Inclusivity and Sexual
20 Health established under section 201(g).

21 “(2) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term ‘eligible en-
22 tity’—

23 “(A) means an entity that submits an ap-
24 plication to the Director in accordance with
25 subsection (c), and is—

1 “(i) a State;

2 “(ii) an Indian tribe or tribal organi-
3 zation; or

4 “(iii) an agency, nonprofit organiza-
5 tion, or institution that—

6 “(I) focuses on serving the needs
7 of older individuals, LGBT individ-
8 uals, or individuals of a protected
9 class; or

10 “(II) focuses on providing sexual
11 health services to all older individuals;
12 and

13 “(B) may include an area agency on aging
14 for a rural area or a multipurpose senior cen-
15 ter.

16 “(3) RURAL AREA.—The term ‘rural area’
17 means an area that is not designated by the United
18 States Census Bureau as an urbanized area or
19 urban cluster.

20 “(b) AUTHORITY FOR GRANTS.—The Director may
21 make grants to eligible entities to carry out activities de-
22 scribed in subsection (d) that are designed—

23 “(1) to create a cooperative and lasting part-
24 nership between LGBT older individuals, or older in-

1 individuals of a protected class, residing in rural areas
2 and the eligible entity receiving the grant;

3 “(2) to meet the needs of the individuals de-
4 scribed in paragraph (1); and

5 “(3) to provide comprehensive sexual health
6 services to all older individuals residing in rural
7 areas.

8 “(c) APPLICATIONS.—

9 “(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity seeking a
10 grant under this section shall submit an application
11 to the Director at such time, in such manner, and
12 containing such information as the Director may
13 reasonably require, including the contents described
14 in paragraph (2).

15 “(2) CONTENTS.—An application for a grant
16 under this section shall contain—

17 “(A) a description of the proposed activi-
18 ties to be supported by the grant;

19 “(B) a description of the size and charac-
20 teristics of the population in a rural area to be
21 served by such proposed activities;

22 “(C) a description of the public and private
23 resources expected to be made available in con-
24 nection with such activities;

1 “(D) a demonstrated intent to partner
2 with local organizations in rural areas in car-
3 rying out such activities;

4 “(E) evidence in a form acceptable to the
5 Director that such activities will meet urgent
6 needs that are not met by available public and
7 private sources; and

8 “(F) such other information or certifi-
9 cations that the Director determines necessary
10 to achieve the purposes described in paragraphs
11 (1) through (3) of subsection (b).

12 “(d) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity may use
13 funds made available by a grant under this section to
14 carry out activities that include initiates that—

15 “(1) engage in education and training relating
16 to community outreach to LGBT older individuals,
17 or older individuals of a protected class, residing in
18 rural areas;

19 “(2) reduce isolation and improve access to care
20 for LGBT older individuals, or older individuals of
21 a protected class, residing in rural areas by building
22 relationships between such individuals and the local
23 community;

1 “(3) foster relationships between local service
2 providers and LGBT older individuals, or older indi-
3 viduals of a protected class, residing in rural areas;

4 “(4) improve cultural competency with respect
5 to LGBT individuals, and older individuals of a pro-
6 tected class, among organizations and personnel pro-
7 viding services to older individuals residing in rural
8 areas;

9 “(5) expand the use of non-discrimination poli-
10 cies that—

11 “(A) protect sexual orientation and gender
12 identity; and

13 “(B) create community spaces that are in-
14 clusive to LGBT older individuals and older in-
15 dividuals of a protected class; and

16 “(6) focus on providing sexual health services to
17 older individuals residing in rural areas.

18 “(e) STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES.—The Director
19 shall establish standards and guidelines for activities sup-
20 ported by a grant under this section. Such standards and
21 guidelines shall permit an eligible entity receiving such a
22 grant to refine or adapt the standards and guidelines for
23 an individual project, where such a refinement or adapta-
24 tion is made necessary by a local circumstance.

25 “(f) COORDINATION WITH LOCAL ENTITIES.—

1 “(1) COOPERATION.—An eligible entity receiv-
2 ing a grant under this section shall, in carrying out
3 activities supported by the grant, agree to cooperate
4 and coordinate with—

5 “(A) the agencies of the relevant State and
6 local governments responsible for providing
7 services to LGBT older individuals, or older in-
8 dividuals of a protected class, in the area served
9 by such activities; and

10 “(B) other public and private organizations
11 and agencies providing services to LGBT older
12 individuals, or older individuals of a protected
13 class, in such area.

14 “(2) PRIORITIZATION.—An eligible entity re-
15 ceiving a grant under this section shall prioritize co-
16 operating and coordinating with public and private
17 organizations and agencies that primarily serve pop-
18 ulations of older individuals with the greatest social
19 need.

20 “(g) REPORTS.—Not later than 2 years after the date
21 of enactment of the Elder Pride Act, and every 2 years
22 thereafter, the Director shall submit to Congress a report
23 describing the activities carried out under this section dur-
24 ing the preceding 2 years.”.

○