

117TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 5005

To amend title XX of the Social Security Act to provide grants and training to support area agencies on aging or other community-based organizations to address social isolation among vulnerable older adults and people with disabilities.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 10, 2021

Ms. SÁNCHEZ introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means

A BILL

To amend title XX of the Social Security Act to provide grants and training to support area agencies on aging or other community-based organizations to address social isolation among vulnerable older adults and people 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 2021” or the
6 “Addressing SILO Act of 2021”.

1 **SEC. 2. INCENTIVES FOR DEVELOPING AND SUSTAINING**
2 **STRUCTURAL COMPETENCY IN PROVIDING**
3 **HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.**

4 Part II of subtitle B of title XX of the Social Security
5 Act (42 U.S.C. 1397m–1397m-5) is amended by adding
6 at the end the following:

7 **“SEC. 2047. INCENTIVES FOR DEVELOPING AND SUS-**
8 **TAINING STRUCTURAL COMPETENCY IN PRO-**
9 **VIDING HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.**

10 **“(a) GRANTS AND TRAINING TO SUPPORT AREA**
11 **AGENCIES ON AGING OR OTHER COMMUNITY-BASED OR-**
12 **GANIZATIONS TO ADDRESS SOCIAL ISOLATION AMONG**
13 **VULNERABLE OLDER ADULTS AND PEOPLE WITH DIS-**
14 **ABILITIES.—**

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

18 **“(A) conducting outreach to individuals at**
19 **risk for, or already experiencing, social isolation**
20 **or loneliness, through established screening**
21 **tools or other methods identified by the Sec-**
22 **retary;**

23 **“(B) developing community-based interven-**
24 **tions for the purposes of mitigating loneliness**
25 **or social isolation (including evidence-based pro-**
26 **grams, as defined by the Secretary, developed**

1 with multi-stakeholder input for the purposes of
2 promoting social connection, mitigating social
3 isolation or loneliness, or preventing social iso-
4 lation or loneliness) among at-risk individuals;

5 “(C) connecting at-risk individuals with
6 community social and clinical supports; and

7 “(D) evaluating the effect of programs de-
8 veloped and implemented under subparagraphs
9 (B) and (C).

10 “(2) TRAINING.—The Secretary shall establish
11 programs to provide and improve training for area
12 agencies on aging or community-based organizations
13 with respect to addressing and preventing social iso-
14 lation and loneliness among older adults and people
15 with disabilities.

16 “(3) EVALUATION.—Not later than 3 years
17 after the date of the enactment of this section and
18 every 3 years thereafter, the Secretary shall submit
19 to the Congress a written report which assesses the
20 extent to which the programs established under this
21 subsection address social isolation and loneliness
22 among older adults and people with disabilities.

23 “(4) APPROPRIATION.—Out of any money in
24 the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, there are
25 appropriated to the Secretary \$62,500,000 for each

1 of fiscal years 2022 through 2025 to carry out this
2 subsection.

3 “(5) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall co-
4 ordinate with resource centers, grant programs, or
5 other funding mechanisms established under section
6 411(a)(18) of the Older Americans Act (42 U.S.C.
7 3032(a)(18)), section 417(a)(1) of such Act (42
8 U.S.C. 3032F(a)(1)), or other programs as deter-
9 mined by the Secretary.

10 “(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

11 “(1) AREA AGENCY ON AGING.—The term ‘area
12 agency on aging’ means an area agency on aging
13 designated under section 305 of the Older Ameri-
14 cans Act of 1965.

15 “(2) SOCIAL ISOLATION.—The term ‘social iso-
16 lation’ means objectively being alone, or having few
17 relationships or infrequent social contact.

18 “(3) LONELINESS.—The term ‘loneliness’
19 means subjectively feeling alone, or the discrepancy
20 between one’s desired level of social connection and
21 one’s actual level of social connection.

22 “(4) SOCIAL CONNECTION.—The term ‘social
23 connection’ means the variety of ways one can con-
24 nect to others socially, through physical, behavioral,
25 social-cognitive, and emotional channels.

1 “(5) 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.”.

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