

114TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 1719

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## AN ACT

To provide for the establishment and maintenance of a National Family Caregiving Strategy, 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,*

1 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

2 This Act may be cited as the “Recognize, Assist, In-  
3 clude, Support, and Engage Family Caregivers Act of  
4 2015” or the “RAISE Family Caregivers Act”.

5 **SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.**

6 In this Act:

7 (1) **ADVISORY COUNCIL.**—The term “Advisory  
8 Council” means the Family Caregiving Advisory  
9 Council convened under section 4.

10 (2) **FAMILY CAREGIVER.**—The term “family  
11 caregiver” means an adult family member or other  
12 individual who has a significant relationship with,  
13 and who provides a broad range of assistance to, an  
14 individual with a chronic or other health condition,  
15 disability, or functional limitation.

16 (3) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means  
17 the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

18 (4) **STRATEGY.**—The term “Strategy” means  
19 the National Family Caregiving Strategy estab-  
20 lished, maintained, and updated under section 3.

21 **SEC. 3. NATIONAL FAMILY CAREGIVING STRATEGY.**

22 (a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary, in consultation  
23 with the heads of other appropriate Federal agencies, shall  
24 develop, maintain, and periodically update a National  
25 Family Caregiving Strategy.

1 (b) CONTENTS.—The Strategy shall identify specific  
2 actions that Federal, State, and local governments, com-  
3 munities, health care, long-term services and supports and  
4 other providers, employers, and others can take to recog-  
5 nize and support family caregivers in a manner that re-  
6 flects their diverse needs, including with respect to the fol-  
7 lowing:

8 (1) Promoting greater adoption of person- and  
9 family-centered care in all health and long-term  
10 services and supports settings, with the person re-  
11 ceiving services and supports and the family care-  
12 giver (as appropriate) at the center of care teams.

13 (2) Assessment and service planning (including  
14 care transitions and coordination) involving family  
15 caregivers and care recipients.

16 (3) Training and other supports.

17 (4) Information, education, referral, and care  
18 coordination, including hospice, palliative care, and  
19 advance planning services.

20 (5) Respite options.

21 (6) Financial security.

22 (7) Workplace policies and supports that allow  
23 family caregivers to remain in the workforce.

1 (c) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE SECRETARY.—The  
2 Secretary, in carrying out this section, shall be responsible  
3 for the following:

4 (1) Collecting and making publicly available in-  
5 formation, including evidence-based or promising  
6 practices and innovative models (both domestically  
7 and internationally) regarding the provision of care  
8 by family caregivers or support for family caregivers.

9 (2) Coordinating Federal Government programs  
10 and activities to recognize and support family care-  
11 givers while ensuring maximum effectiveness and  
12 avoiding unnecessary duplication.

13 (3) Providing technical assistance, such as best  
14 practices and information sharing, to State or local  
15 efforts, as appropriate, to support family caregivers.

16 (4) Addressing disparities in recognizing and  
17 supporting family caregivers and meeting the needs  
18 of the diverse family caregiving population.

19 (5) Assessing all Federal programs regarding  
20 family caregivers, including with respect to funding  
21 levels.

22 (d) INITIAL STRATEGY; UPDATES.—The Secretary  
23 shall—

24 (1) not later than 18 months after the date of  
25 enactment of this Act, develop, publish, and submit

1 to Congress the initial Strategy incorporating the  
2 items addressed in the Advisory Council’s report in  
3 section 4(d)(2) and other priority actions for recog-  
4 nizing and supporting family caregivers; and

5 (2) not less than every 2 years, update, repub-  
6 lish, and submit to Congress the Strategy, taking  
7 into account the most recent annual report sub-  
8 mitted under section 4(d)(1)—

9 (A) to reflect new developments, chal-  
10 lenges, opportunities, and solutions; and

11 (B) to assess progress in implementation  
12 of the Strategy and, based on the results of  
13 such assessment, recommend priority actions  
14 for such implementation.

15 (e) PROCESS FOR PUBLIC INPUT.—The Secretary  
16 shall establish a process for public input to inform the de-  
17 velopment of, and updates to, the Strategy, including a  
18 process for the public to submit recommendations to the  
19 Advisory Council and an opportunity for public comment  
20 on the proposed Strategy.

21 (f) NO PREEMPTION.—Nothing in this Act preempts  
22 any authority of a State or local government to recognize  
23 or support family caregivers.

1 **SEC. 4. FAMILY CAREGIVING ADVISORY COUNCIL.**

2 (a) CONVENING.—The Secretary shall convene a  
3 Family Caregiving Advisory Council to provide advice to  
4 the Secretary on recognizing and supporting family care-  
5 givers.

6 (b) MEMBERSHIP.—

7 (1) IN GENERAL.—The members of the Advi-  
8 sory Council shall consist of—

9 (A) the appointed members under para-  
10 graph (2); and

11 (B) the Federal members under paragraph  
12 (3).

13 (2) APPOINTED MEMBERS.—In addition to the  
14 Federal members under paragraph (3), the Sec-  
15 retary shall appoint not more than 15 members of  
16 the Advisory Council who are not representatives of  
17 Federal departments or agencies and who shall in-  
18 clude at least one representative of each of the fol-  
19 lowing:

20 (A) Family caregivers.

21 (B) Older adults with long-term services  
22 and supports needs, including older adults fac-  
23 ing disparities.

24 (C) Individuals with disabilities.

1           (D) Advocates for family caregivers, older  
2 adults with long-term services and supports  
3 needs, and individuals with disabilities.

4           (E) Health care and social service pro-  
5 viders.

6           (F) Long-term services and supports pro-  
7 viders.

8           (G) Employers.

9           (H) Paraprofessional workers.

10          (I) State and local officials.

11          (J) Accreditation bodies.

12          (K) Relevant industries.

13          (L) Veterans.

14          (M) As appropriate, other experts in family  
15 caregiving.

16          (3) FEDERAL MEMBERS.—The Federal mem-  
17 bers of the Advisory Council, who shall be nonvoting  
18 members, shall consist of the following:

19           (A) The Administrator of the Centers for  
20 Medicare & Medicaid Services (or the Adminis-  
21 trator’s designee).

22           (B) The Administrator of the Administra-  
23 tion for Community Living (or the Administra-  
24 tor’s designee who has experience in both aging  
25 and disability).

1           (C) The Assistant Secretary for the Ad-  
2           ministration for Children and Families (or the  
3           Assistant Secretary's designee).

4           (D) The Secretary of Veterans Affairs (or  
5           the Secretary's designee).

6           (E) The Secretary of Labor (or the Sec-  
7           retary's designee).

8           (F) The Secretary of the Treasury (or the  
9           Secretary's designee).

10          (G) The National Coordinator for Health  
11          Information Technology (or the National Coor-  
12          dinator's designee).

13          (H) The Administrator of the Small Busi-  
14          ness Administration (or the Administrator's  
15          designee).

16          (I) The Chief Executive Officer of the Cor-  
17          poration for National and Community Service  
18          (or the Chief Executive Officer's designee).

19          (J) The heads of other Federal depart-  
20          ments or agencies (or their designees), as ap-  
21          pointed by the Secretary or the Chair of the  
22          Advisory Council.

23          (4) DIVERSE REPRESENTATION.—The Sec-  
24          retary shall ensure that the membership of the Advi-  
25          sory Council reflects the diversity of family care-



1       givers and individuals receiving services and sup-  
2       ports.

3       (c) MEETINGS.—The Advisory Council shall meet  
4       quarterly during the 1-year period beginning on the date  
5       of enactment of this Act and at least three times during  
6       each year thereafter. Meetings of the Advisory Council  
7       shall be open to the public.

8       (d) ADVISORY COUNCIL ANNUAL REPORTS.—

9               (1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 12 months  
10       after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually  
11       thereafter, the Advisory Council shall submit to the  
12       Secretary and Congress a report concerning the de-  
13       velopment, maintenance, and updating of the Strat-  
14       egy and the implementation thereof, including a de-  
15       scription of the outcomes of the recommendations  
16       and priorities under paragraph (2), as appropriate.  
17       Such report shall be made publicly available by the  
18       Advisory Council.

19               (2) INITIAL REPORT.—The Advisory Council’s  
20       initial report under paragraph (1) shall include—

21                       (A) an inventory and assessment of all fed-  
22       erally funded efforts to recognize and support  
23       family caregivers and the outcomes of such ef-  
24       forts, including analyses of the extent to which

1           federally funded efforts are reaching family  
2           caregivers and gaps in such efforts;

3           (B) recommendations for priority actions—

4                 (i) to improve and better coordinate  
5                 programs; and

6                 (ii) to deliver services based on the  
7                 performance, mission, and purpose of a  
8                 program while eliminating redundancies  
9                 and ensuring the needs of family caregivers  
10                are met;

11           (C) recommendations to reduce the finan-  
12           cial impact and other challenges of caregiving  
13           on family caregivers; and

14           (D) an evaluation of how family caregiving  
15           impacts the Medicare program, and Medicaid  
16           program, and other Federal programs.

17           (e) NONAPPLICABILITY OF FACA.—The Federal Ad-  
18           visory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to  
19           the Advisory Council.

1 **SEC. 5. SUNSET PROVISION.**

2       The authority and obligations established by this Act  
3 shall terminate on December 31, 2025.

      Passed the Senate December 8, 2015.

Attest:

*Secretary.*

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