

117TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 410

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

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

FEBRUARY 24, 2021

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

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## 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 2021”.

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:

1 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN  
2 SERVICES

3 ADMINISTRATION FOR COMMUNITY LIVING  
4 AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES PROGRAMS

5 For an additional amount for “Aging and Disability  
6 Services Programs”, for carrying out the Older Americans  
7 Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) (“OAA”),  
8 \$104,000,000, to remain available through September 30,  
9 2022, of which—

10 (1) \$80,000,000 shall be made available for  
11 supportive services under part B of title III of such  
12 Act (42 U.S.C. 3030d et seq.), provided that such  
13 amount made available under this paragraph shall  
14 be made available for prevention and mitigation ac-  
15 tivities focused on addressing extended social isola-  
16 tion among older individuals, which may include ac-  
17 tivities for investments in technological equipment  
18 and solutions or other strategies aimed at alleviating  
19 the negative health effects of social isolation due to  
20 long-term stay-at-home recommendations for older  
21 individuals for the duration of the coronavirus pan-  
22 demic;

23 (2) \$18,000,000 shall be made available for ac-  
24 tivities authorized under sections 202(a)(33),  
25 202(b)(11), and 411(a)(18) of such Act (42 U.S.C.

1 3012(a)(33), 3012(b)(11), and 3032(a)(18)), pro-  
2 vided that such amount made available under this  
3 paragraph shall be made available for—

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

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

22 (3) \$6,000,000 shall be made available for  
23 aging network support activities, provided that such  
24 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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