



ARTICLE: <https://www.cbs19news.com/content/news/Bill-aims-to-helpcaregivers-in-America-508400371.html>

KAINE PRESS RELEASE: <https://www.kaine.senate.gov/press-releases/durbinkaine-introduce-bill-to-support-family-caregivers>

WASHINGTON (CBS19 NEWS) -- A bill had been introduced in the U.S. Senate that would help more than 34 million family caregivers in the United States.

Senators Tim Kaine of Virginia and Dick Durbin of Illinois recently introduced the Supporting American's Caregivers and Families Act, which would increase funding, training and support for caregivers.

According to a release, caregivers provide more than \$470 billion worth of unpaid care each year, which is more than the entire federal Medicaid budget.

The average caregiver will spend about \$7,000 of their own money annually to provide care for a loved one, with an average commitment of 24 hours per week.

The strain of this can lead to depleted savings, employment issues, and increased emotional stress and physical health challenges.

The release says the bill would also bolster the nation's network of Area Agencies on Aging and enhance support for caregivers through skills building, resources and information, respite care, counseling and more.

"Many caregivers are family members who are sacrificing time and income to provide support to loved ones battling Alzheimer's and other chronic conditions," said Kaine. "This bill is an effort to recognize the contributions of caregivers and provide the resources they need to support our aging communities."

Under the bill, Area Agencies on Aging can support caregivers through increased funding for the National Family Caregiver Support Program, to \$360 million.

It would also increase the use of caregiver assessments because 84 percent of caregivers say they could use additional information to provide care. These assessments could help identify and address the health, financial, training and skills the caregivers may need.



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Through enhanced partnerships with health payers, Area Agencies on Aging would be able to get funding from Medicare and Medicaid to provide case management and other services for seniors in order to increase funding for support services for them.

The release says about 73 million people in America will be 65 or older by 2030.

At this time, almost 35 million Americans provide unpaid care to people who are 50 years old or older, many of whom are family members.

And a growing number of grandparents or older relative caregivers are providing care to young children and adults with disabilities.

The release says two out of five caregivers report suffering from high levels of emotional stress, and six in ten report their own work has been affected by caregiving.



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News & Events

National Council on Aging Webinar: Building Community-Integrated Networks through Purposeful Partnerships

Thursday, May 9, 2019 1:00-2:00 PM ET

[Register for the event](#)

Community-based organizations are increasingly banding together to develop collaborative community-integrated networks to support older adults' ability to live independently in their communities and develop health care contracts to improve service delivery. This webinar will focus on the building blocks of community-integrated networks and critical steps in developing an effective hub, including conducting an environmental scan, evaluating organizational culture, and formalizing partnership roles and responsibilities. Details about the 2019-20 Network Development Learning Collaborative will also be shared.

Presenters:

- Sharon Williams, Chief Executive Officer, Williams Jaxon Consulting, LLC
- Dianne Davis, Vice President, Health Self-Management Services, Partners in Care Foundation
- Jennifer Raymond, Chief Strategy Officer, Elderly Services of Merrimack Valley, Inc.



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Learn more about the host of this event, [NCOA's National Chronic Disease Self-Management Education Resource Center](#).



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News & Events

NADRC Webinar: Engaging, Training and Implementing Programs that Utilize Volunteers for Dementia Programs

Tuesday, May 21, 2019 3:00-4:00 PM ET

[Register for the event](#)

Volunteers can provide valuable support for organizations serving persons living with dementia and their caregivers by enabling those organizations to expand their capacity and plan for long-term sustainability. This webinar will focus on finding, training, and retaining volunteers; providing volunteers with meaningful work; and determining which volunteers are a good match for programs. Presenters include representatives from two programs that rely on volunteers to provide dementia-capable services. **Presenters**

- *Kay Wallick* is the program director for Dementia Friendly Wyoming. She is a founder of Green House Living for Sheridan, an alternative skilled nursing facility, and was national Director of Shepherd's Centers of America.
- *Daphne Johnston* is founder and director of the Respite Ministry in Montgomery, Alabama. Her faith-based, volunteer model of care has spread to 12 new programs in the southeast.

Registration

Registration is required to receive the webinar information. Visit the [webinar webpage](#) to learn more, including CE credit information.

Closed captioning is available for all NADRC webinars.



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This webinar will be recorded and available for viewing through the [National Alzheimer's and Dementia Resource Center](#).

Mark your calendar for the next webinar: *Caregiving for People with Non-Alzheimer's [Dementia](#)*, June 4, 2:00-3:00 PM ET.



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Link to DARS Independent Living Monthly Newsletter

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<https://intranet/docrepo/DARSCILDocViewer.html>