

116TH CONGRESS
1ST SESSION

H. R. 4859

To amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to reduce social isolation among older individuals.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

OCTOBER 24, 2019

Mr. TRONE (for himself and Mr. WALBERG) 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 reduce social isolation among older individuals.

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 “Protecting Older
5 Americans from Social Isolation Act of 2019”.

6 **SEC. 2. INCREASED FOCUS OF ASSISTANT SECRETARY ON**
7 **HEALTH EFFECTS OF SOCIAL ISOLATION.**

8 Section 202(a) of the Older Americans Act of 1965
9 (42 U.S.C. 3012(a)) is amended—

1 (1) in paragraph (30) by striking “; and” and
2 inserting a semicolon;

3 (2) in paragraph (31) by striking the period at
4 the end and inserting “; and”; and

5 (3) by adding at the end the following:

6 “(32) develop objectives, priorities, and a long-
7 term plan for supporting State and local efforts in-
8 volving education about, prevention of, detection of,
9 and response to negative health effects associated
10 with social isolation among older individuals.”.

11 **SEC. 3. ADVISORY COUNCIL ON HEALTH EFFECTS OF SO-**
12 **CIAL ISOLATION.**

13 Section 202 of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42
14 U.S.C. 3012) is amended by adding at the end the fol-
15 lowing:

16 “(h)(1) The Assistant Secretary shall convene an ad-
17 visory council on negative health effects associated with
18 social isolation with aging network stakeholders, including
19 caregivers, and select members in a manner that ensures
20 geographic diversity of the members—

21 “(A) to review and evaluate efforts to address
22 negative health effects associated with social isola-
23 tion among older individuals; and

24 “(B) to identify challenges, solutions, and best
25 practices related to such efforts.

1 “(2) The advisory council convened under paragraph
2 (1) shall—

3 “(A) ensure consideration of consumer-directed
4 care models; and

5 “(B) submit a report to Congress on its find-
6 ings.

7 “(3) The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C.
8 App.) shall not apply with respect to the advisory council
9 convened under paragraph (1).”.

10 **SEC. 4. SUPPORTIVE SERVICES AND SENIOR CENTERS.**

11 Section 321(a) of the Older Americans Act of 1965
12 (42 U.S.C. 3030d(a)) is amended—

13 (1) in paragraph (24) by striking “and” at the
14 end;

15 (2) by redesignating paragraph (25) as para-
16 graph (26); and

17 (3) by inserting after paragraph (24) the fol-
18 lowing:

19 “(25) services that promote or support social
20 connectedness and reduce negative health effects as-
21 sociated with social isolation; and”.

22 **SEC. 5. DEMONSTRATION PROJECTS.**

23 (a) DEMONSTRATIONS.—Section 411(a) of the Older
24 Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3032(a)) is amended—

1 (1) in paragraph (13) by striking “and” at the
2 end;

3 (2) by redesignating paragraph (14) as para-
4 graph (15); and

5 (3) by inserting after paragraph (13) the fol-
6 lowing:

7 “(14) projects that address negative health ef-
8 fects associated with social isolation among older
9 adults; and”.

10 (b) REPEAL.—Section 416 of the Older Americans
11 Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3032e) is repealed.

12 **SEC. 6. YOUNGER ONSET ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE.**

13 (a) DEFINITION OF “FAMILY CAREGIVER”.—Section
14 302(3) of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C.
15 3022(3)) is amended by inserting “of any age” after “an
16 individual”.

17 (b) DEFINITION OF “RESIDENT”.—Section 711(6) of
18 the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3058(6)) is
19 amended by inserting “of any age” after “individual”.

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