

116TH CONGRESS  
2D SESSION

# H. R. 8026

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

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## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

AUGUST 11, 2020

Mr. TRONE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Appropriations, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

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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 2020”.

6 **SEC. 2. SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS.**

7 The following sums are hereby appropriated, out of  
8 any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated,

1 for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2021, and for  
2 other purposes, namely:

3 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN  
4 SERVICES

5 ADMINISTRATION FOR COMMUNITY LIVING  
6 AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES PROGRAMS

7 For an additional amount for “Aging and Disability  
8 Services Programs”, for carrying out the Older Americans  
9 Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) (“OAA”),  
10 \$104,000,000, to remain available through September 30,  
11 2022, of which—

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

1           (2) \$18,000,000 shall be made available for ac-  
2           tivities authorized under sections 202(a)(33),  
3           202(b)(11), and 411(a)(18) of such Act (42 U.S.C.  
4           3012(a)(33), 3012(b)(11), and 3032(a)(18)), pro-  
5           vided that such amount made available under this  
6           paragraph shall be made available for—

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

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

1           (3) \$6,000,000 shall be made available for  
2           aging network support activities, provided that such  
3           amount made available under this paragraph shall  
4           be used to develop targeted outreach strategies to  
5           reach particularly at-risk populations, including—

6                   (A) populations targeted under section  
7                   306(a)(4)(A)(i)(I) of such Act (42 U.S.C.  
8                   3026(a)(4)(A)(i)(I)); and

9                   (B) older individuals whose needs were the  
10                  focus of centers funded under title IV of such  
11                  Act (42 U.S.C. 3031 et seq.) for fiscal year  
12                  2019:

13 *Provided*, That, notwithstanding section 304(d)(1)(D) of  
14 the OAA (42 U.S.C. 3024(d)(1)(D)) or any other provi-  
15 sion in such Act, the requirement for a non-Federal share  
16 under such section shall not apply for fiscal year 2021  
17 with respect to services under part B of title III of such  
18 Act: *Provided further*, That the amount appropriated  
19 under this heading is designated by Congress as being for  
20 an emergency requirement pursuant to section  
21 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency  
22 Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(b)(2)(A)(i)).

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