

September XX, 2016

Chairman John Kline
Committee on Education & the Workforce
2176 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Ranking Member Robert C. Scott
Committee on Education & the Workforce
2101 Rayburn House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Chairman Kline and Ranking Member Scott:

We, the undersigned groups, write in support of the Recognize, Assist, Include, Support, and Engage (RAISE) Family Caregivers Act. This bipartisan legislation was passed unanimously by the Senate last December, and has been referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce. We urge the House of Representatives, facing a short legislative calendar the remainder of this year, to make this bill a priority and take prompt action on this important legislation.

Family caregivers are the backbone of services and supports in this country. They help make it possible for older adults, people with disabilities, and veterans to live independently in their homes and communities. In 2013, about 40 million family caregivers provided unpaid care valued at about \$470 billion to adults who needed help with daily activities, more than total Medicaid spending that year. About 3.7 million family caregivers provide care to a child under age 18 because of a medical, behavioral, or other condition or disability. Our country relies on the contributions family caregivers make and should recognize and support them. By supporting family caregivers, we can help people live at home where they want to be, helping to delay or prevent more costly care and unnecessary hospitalizations, saving taxpayer dollars.

The RAISE Family Caregivers Act ([S.1719/H.R.3099](#)) would implement the federal Commission on Long-Term Care's bipartisan recommendation that Congress require the development of a national strategy to support family caregivers. The bill would create an advisory body to bring together members of the private and public sectors to advise and make recommendations. The strategy would identify specific actions that communities, providers, employers, government, and others can take to recognize and support family caregivers.

We urge you to support passage of the RAISE Family Caregivers Act in September. This bill is a commonsense step to help support family caregivers nationwide. We are committed to working with you to pass and enact this important bipartisan legislation as soon as possible this year.

Sincerely,

List of organizations signing the letter

cc: Members of the Committee on Education and the Workforce
The Honorable Paul Ryan
The Honorable Nancy Pelosi

The Honorable Kevin McCarthy
The Honorable Steny Hoyer