



Coronavirus Relief for Seniors and People with Disabilities Act (S. 3544 and H.R. 6305)

Seniors and people with disabilities are most susceptible to infection by the coronavirus and COVID-19. To better protect the health and well-being of seniors, Senator Bob Casey (D-PA) and Representative Debbie Dingell (D-MI) introduced the Coronavirus Relief for Seniors and People with Disabilities Act. Senators Cory Booker (D-NJ), Sherrod Brown (D-OH), Bob Menendez (D-NJ), Doug Jones (D-AL), Gary Peters (D-MI), Tammy Duckworth (D-IL), Kirsten Gillibrand (D-NY), Kyrsten Sinema (D-AZ), Richard Blumenthal (D-CT), Tim Kaine (D-VA), Maggie Hassan (D-NH), Jack Reed (D-RI), Elizabeth Warren (D-MA), Tina Smith (D-MN), Jon Tester (D-MT), Bernie Sanders (I-VT), Jeanne Shaheen (D-NH), Tammy Baldwin (D-WI), Amy Klobuchar (D-MN), Jacky Rosen (D-NV), Ed Markey (D-MA), Catherine Cortez Masto (D-NV) and Jeff Merkley (D-OR) have co-sponsored the bill.

The bill:

Increases Funding for Nursing Home Inspections

Prior to the first coronavirus infection in a nursing home, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS)'s nursing home inspection program was already operating at a \$44.8 million deficit. The bill increases funding for nursing home surveys and inspections to ensure recommended infection control measures are in place.

Ensures Medical Treatment for Low-income Seniors

Seniors and individuals with disabilities with incomes at or below \$19,000 a year and limited savings will be automatically enrolled into the Medicare savings program (MSP). MSP will cover Medicare premiums and cost-sharing for these individuals, while freeing up \$145 a month for these individuals to use for other necessities.

Promotes Home and Community-Based Care

As homes are the safest place for seniors to be during the pandemic, this legislation increases funding to expand home and community-based care. States can use these funds to expand the pool of their direct care workers and reduce the waiting lists for these programs. It also helps protect the health of the home care workforce with sick leave, pay increases and overtime pay.

Ensures Seniors Can Get Meals at Home

With seniors being asked to practice social distancing and stay at home many congregate meal settings are being shut down. This legislation provides increased funding for the Meals-on-Wheels program to help ensure that seniors and individuals with disabilities can receive 3 meals a day 7 days a week at their home.