

113TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

S. 2842

To amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a Caregiver Corps program.

IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

SEPTEMBER 17 (legislative day, SEPTEMBER 16), 2014

Mr. CASEY introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

A BILL

To amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a Caregiver Corps program.

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 “Caregiver Corps Act
5 of 2014”.

6 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS AND PURPOSE.**

7 (a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following find-
8 ings:

9 (1) As of 2013, more than 43,000,000 Ameri-
10 cans are age 65 or older. More than 75 percent of

1 such individuals live with chronic conditions which
2 require assistance that helps them to live in a home-
3 or community-based setting. In 2012, almost
4 38,000,000 Americans of all ages reported having
5 one or more disabilities.

6 (2) As of 2012, there were over 800,000 home
7 health aides assisting older adults in their homes
8 with activities of daily living and some light house-
9 keeping tasks such as changing linens and preparing
10 food. Direct care workers are critical as families and
11 friends strive to provide quality care for individuals
12 in the community.

13 (3) Estimates suggest that there are
14 52,000,000 to 65,000,000 informal caregivers help-
15 ing to provide care to adults with disabilities and ill-
16 nesses. These caregivers help with a range of tasks
17 but more time is spent on tasks such as shopping,
18 food preparation, housekeeping, and laundry, and
19 less time is spent on activities of daily living such as
20 feeding, dressing, grooming, walking, bathing, and
21 assistance toileting.

22 (4) Over 60 percent of all informal caregivers
23 work either full- or part-time. Even with the growing
24 number of direct care workers available, there is a
25 shortage in the number of people available to help

1 support individuals who need extra assistance to re-
2 main in the community.

3 (5) Only 12 percent of informal caregivers re-
4 port having used a respite service. Respite is a
5 means of giving the caregiver a break from their
6 caregiving duties. Respite comes in many forms and
7 may include having the individual attend an adult
8 day program outside the home or having a friendly
9 visitor serve as a companion and provide light assist-
10 ance while the caregiver takes a break.

11 (6) Respite volunteer programs exist in many
12 communities. There is a range of ways that these
13 programs offer incentives to the volunteers. Some
14 programs use a time-banking or service-exchange ap-
15 proach as an incentive to engage volunteers, while
16 other programs access funds from private and public
17 sources to offer modest stipends to volunteers.

18 (b) PURPOSE.—It is the purpose of this Act to estab-
19 lish a Caregiver Corps program to foster the creation of
20 community-based Corps programs that provide for volun-
21 teer community service opportunities to address the short-
22 age of assistance available for older adults and individuals
23 with disabilities.

1 **SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF CAREGIVER CORPS PROGRAM.**

2 Part P of title III of the Public Health Service Act
3 (42 U.S.C. 280g et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
4 the following:

5 **“SEC. 399V-6. CAREGIVER CORPS.**

6 “(a) CONTRACT FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF CARE-
7 GIVER CORPS PROGRAM.—

8 “(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall enter
9 into a contract with a nonprofit entity for the devel-
10 opment of an online toolkit and guidance providing
11 for the establishment and implementation of Care-
12 giver Corps (referred to in this section as ‘Corps’)
13 volunteer programs in local communities.

14 “(2) REQUIREMENTS.—The toolkit and guid-
15 ance developed under paragraph (1) shall be based
16 on best practice methods from existing private and
17 public sector volunteer programs and include—

18 “(A) guidance on the recruitment, screen-
19 ing, and training of Corps volunteers;

20 “(B) guidance on recommended processes
21 for administering and evaluating the perform-
22 ance of local Corps programs;

23 “(C) guidance on options for securing
24 start-up and operational funding for local Corps
25 programs;

1 “(D) sources for obtaining ongoing tech-
2 nical assistance; and

3 “(E) guidance on how communities can
4 promote larger community involvement and cul-
5 tivate partnerships and connections between
6 local Corps programs.

7 “(3) GRANTS.—The Secretary may award
8 grants to public and private nonprofit entities for
9 the operation of local Corps programs under sub-
10 section (b) in accordance with this section.

11 “(b) REQUIREMENTS OF CAREGIVER CORPS PRO-
12 GRAMS.—

13 “(1) LOCAL CAREGIVER CORPS PROGRAMS.—

14 “(A) ELIGIBILITY.—To be eligible to be a
15 local Corps program for purposes of this sec-
16 tion, an entity shall be—

17 “(i) an area agency on aging;

18 “(ii) a time-banking or volunteer or-
19 ganizing agency;

20 “(iii) a college or university;

21 “(iv) a State, county, or local govern-
22 ment; or

23 “(v) any other entity determined to be
24 appropriate by the Secretary.

1 “(B) DUTIES AND ACTIVITIES.—A local
2 Corps program shall—

3 “(i) conduct screening and criminal
4 history background checks of Corps volun-
5 teers;

6 “(ii) provide in-person orientation and
7 training for Corps volunteers;

8 “(iii) develop and monitor volunteer
9 assignments, which shall include selecting
10 the adults to be served by Corps volun-
11 teers, matching volunteers to assignments,
12 and supervising the volunteers;

13 “(iv) assist in the provision of appro-
14 priate volunteer recognition;

15 “(v) maintain records and prepare re-
16 ports as required by the Secretary; and

17 “(vi) carry out any other activities de-
18 termined appropriate by the Secretary.

19 “(2) CAREGIVER CORPS VOLUNTEERS.—

20 “(A) ELIGIBILITY.—

21 “(i) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to
22 serve as a volunteer for a local Corps pro-
23 gram, an individual shall—

1 “(I) be at least 18 years of age
2 and willing to accept supervision as
3 required by the local Corps program;

4 “(II) consent to a criminal back-
5 ground check; and

6 “(III) meet such other require-
7 ments as the local Corps program
8 shall require.

9 “(ii) LIMITATION.—Eligibility to be a
10 volunteer for a local Corps program shall
11 not be restricted on the basis of education,
12 employment experience, citizenship, race,
13 color, creed, belief, gender, sexual orienta-
14 tion, national origin, disability, or political
15 affiliation.

16 “(B) TERMS OF SERVICE.—

17 “(i) IN GENERAL.—An individual may
18 serve as a full- or part-time volunteer for
19 an initial period of not to exceed 2 years.

20 “(ii) LIMITATION.—An individual who
21 serves as a volunteer for a local Corps pro-
22 gram shall not be considered to be an em-
23 ployee of the local Corps program for pur-
24 poses of the application of any Federal or
25 State employment-related law.

1 “(C) FUNCTIONS.—

2 “(i) IN GENERAL.—A Corps volunteer
3 shall—

4 “(I) provide assistance to an
5 older individual or an individual with
6 disabilities who needs additional serv-
7 ices to remain in the community;

8 “(II) provide assistance to give
9 an informal caregiver respite from his
10 or her caregiving duties;

11 “(III) serve as a companion to
12 older individuals and individuals with
13 disabilities;

14 “(IV) provide assistance for
15 which such volunteer is qualified, as
16 determined by the local Corps pro-
17 gram; and

18 “(V) not provide personal care or
19 administer prescription medications.

20 “(ii) INDIVIDUALS TO BE SERVED.—

21 To be eligible to obtain Corps volunteer
22 services, an individual shall be an adult
23 aged 65 or older, or an individual eligible
24 for Social Security Disability Insurance,
25 who is in need of assistance to achieve and

1 maintain their highest level of independent
2 living.

3 “(iii) REQUIRED SERVICE TO INDIVID-
4 UALS.—The activities of a Corps volunteer
5 shall involve person-to-person relationships
6 with the individuals being served and shall
7 not include the provision of any service to
8 the local Corps program involved.

9 “(3) DIRECT BENEFITS.—A local Corps pro-
10 gram—

11 “(A) shall provide for appropriate recogni-
12 tion of Corps volunteers; and

13 “(B) may, at the discretion of the local
14 Corps program, provide compensation to a
15 Corps volunteer, in the manner determined ap-
16 propriate by the local Corps program, which
17 may include stipends, tuition incentives or aca-
18 demic credit, or the banking of volunteer hours
19 for use against future needs for assistance.

20 “(4) REPORTING.—Not less than annually, a
21 local Corps program shall submit to the Secretary a
22 report that contains, with respect to the year for
23 which the report is prepared—

24 “(A) aggregate data on the number of
25 Corps volunteers trained, the number of Corps

1 volunteers providing service, the number of
2 hours of service provided, and the number of in-
3 dividuals being served; and

4 “(B) data to inform the Secretary and
5 local communities of any system and consumer
6 outcome impacts of the local Corps program.

7 “(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There
8 is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section,
9 such sums as may be necessary.”.

○