

119TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# S. 2490

To improve the Long-Term Care Ombudsman program.

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IN THE SENATE OF THE UNITED STATES

JULY 29, 2025

Mr. KAINE (for himself and Mr. KIM) introduced the following bill; which was read twice and referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

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## A BILL

To improve the Long-Term Care Ombudsman 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 “Strengthening Advo-  
5       cacy for Long-Term Care Residents Act”.

6       **SEC. 2. IMPROVING TRAINING OF VOLUNTEERS UNDER**  
7                       **THE STATE LONG-TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN**  
8                       **PROGRAM.**

9       Section 712 of the Older Americans Act of 1965 (42  
10      U.S.C. 3058g) is amended—

11                   (1) in subsection (h)(5)—

1 (A) in the matter preceding subparagraph

2 (A)—

3 (i) by striking “the representatives”

4 and inserting “each type of representa-

5 tive”; and

6 (ii) by inserting “types of” before

7 “unpaid volunteers”;

8 (B) in subparagraph (A), by inserting “for

9 each such type of representative” before the

10 semicolon at the end;

11 (C) in subparagraph (B)(iii), by striking

12 “and” at the end;

13 (D) in subparagraph (C), by adding “and”

14 at the end; and

15 (E) by adding at the end the following:

16 “(D) with respect to representatives of the

17 Office who are unpaid volunteers, take into con-

18 sideration the degree to which each such type of

19 unpaid volunteer performs activities requiring

20 specialized training, with a goal of reducing un-

21 necessary training requirements for prospective

22 unpaid volunteers;”; and

23 (2) by adding at the end the following:

24 “(k) TRAINING REQUIREMENTS FOR UNPAID VOL-

25 UNTEERS.—

1           “(1) IN GENERAL.—In providing the model  
 2           standards described in subsection (h)(5), the Direc-  
 3           tor of the Office of Long-Term Care Ombudsman  
 4           Programs shall review and, as necessary, update  
 5           such model standards on a regular basis to tailor  
 6           such model standards to the individualized training  
 7           needs of each type of representative of the Office, in-  
 8           cluding each type of unpaid volunteer.

9           “(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In carrying out para-  
 10          graph (1), the Director of the Office of Long-Term  
 11          Care Ombudsman Programs shall take into consider-  
 12          ation the degree to which each type of representative  
 13          of the Office performs activities that require special-  
 14          ized training, with a goal of reducing unnecessary  
 15          training requirements for unpaid volunteers.”.

16 **SEC. 3. DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF LONG-TERM CARE**  
 17 **OMBUDSMAN PROGRAMS.**

18          Section 201(d)(2)(A) of the Older Americans Act of  
 19          1965 (42 U.S.C. 3011(d)(2)(A)) is amended in the second  
 20          sentence by inserting “serve on a full-time basis and”  
 21          after “shall”.

22 **SEC. 4. STUDY ON STATE LONG-TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN**  
 23 **PROGRAMS.**

24          (a) IN GENERAL.—The Assistant Secretary for Aging  
 25          shall seek to enter into a contract with the National Acad-

1 emies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (referred to  
2 in this section as the “National Academies”) to conduct  
3 a study on the State Long-Term Care Ombudsman pro-  
4 grams carried out under the Older Americans Act of 1965  
5 (42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.), including an assessment of the  
6 effectiveness of such programs and any related challenges,  
7 and recommendations. The study shall include an assess-  
8 ment of the current (as of the date on which the contract  
9 is entered into) recommended staff-to-bed ratio for such  
10 programs, as appropriate.

11 (b) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date  
12 on which a contract is entered into under subsection (a),  
13 the National Academies shall publicly issue a report on  
14 the findings of such study.

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