



Please Support The CARE Act House Bill 3911 Lead Sponsors: Senator Linda Dorcena Forry Representative Chris Walsh

Support Massachusetts Seniors & Their Family Caregivers

Over 844,000 Bay State residents are caring for an aging parent or loved one, helping them to live independently in their own homes. These family caregivers have a huge responsibility, and we can take some common sense steps that would make the world of difference to them. That's why AARP urges lawmakers to enact **The Caregiver Advise, Record, Enable (CARE) Act** to better support family caregivers as they safely help Massachusetts seniors stay at home.

What is The CARE Act

The CARE Act recognizes the critical role family caregivers play in keeping their loved ones out of costly institutions.

The bill features three important provisions:

- ♥ The hospital patient is provided with an opportunity to designate a family caregiver;
- ♥ The family caregiver is notified if the loved one is to be discharged to another facility or back home; and,
- ♥ The facility must provide an explanation and live instruction of the medical tasks – such as medication management, injections, wound care, and transfers – that the family caregiver will perform at home.

Why Massachusetts Needs The CARE Act

- ♥ More than half (55%) of family caregivers report being overwhelmed by the amount of care their family member needs.
- ♥ Nearly 4 in 10 (38%) family caregivers report a moderate (20%) to high degree (18%) of financial strain as a result of providing care.
- ♥ In 2014, the majority (60%) of family caregivers had full- or part-time jobs.
- ♥ In 2010, there were 7.2 potential family caregivers for every person age 80 and older. By 2030, that ratio will fall sharply to 4 to 1, and is projected to drop further to 3 to 1 in 2050.

AARP report "Valuing the Invaluable: 2015 Update"

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Family Caregivers in Massachusetts

- ♥ The vast majority of older Americans/Massachusetts residents want to live independently at home.
- ♥ Most seniors who receive assistance at home rely exclusively on unpaid family caregivers for help.
- ♥ More than 844,000 of family caregivers in Massachusetts help their loved ones to live independently – keeping them out of costly institutions, such as nursing homes.
- ♥ Family caregivers perform a variety of caregiving duties, including help with bathing and dressing, feeding, medication management, wound care, transportation, and more.
- ♥ In Massachusetts, family caregivers provided 786 million hours of care for unpaid care valued at about \$11.6 billion annually.
- ♥ Massachusetts ranks 41st in the nation for support of unpaid family caregivers.

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Real Possibilities