National Rural Health Association

https://www.ruralhealth.us/advocate
@nrha_advocacy

Healthy Rural Aging

The rural population is aging more rapidly than in urban areas with 17.5% of rural populations being age 65+, compared to 13.8% of urban populations.

NRHA Supported Legislation

Reauthorization of the Older Americans Act

(S.4776 in the 118th Congress)

Sens. Sanders (I-VT), Cassidy (R-LA)

Programs under the Older Americans Act (OAA) support transportation, recreation, in-home assistance, disease prevention and more. OAA reauthorization efforts would expand access to nutrition programs, strengthen caregiver support, prioritize elder justice initiatives, and improve mental health services for older adults, all with the goal of promoting their well-being and independence

Supporting Our Direct Care Workforce and Family Caregivers Act

(S.1298 in the 118th Congress)

Sen. Kaine (D-VA)

Requires the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to set up a national technical assistance center and grant program to support the direct care workforce and family caregivers.

Improving Seniors' Timely Access to Care Act

(S.1816 / H.R.3514)

Sen. Marshall (R-KS) & Sinema (I-AZ) and Reps. Kelly (R-PA) & DelBene (D-WA)

Establishes requirements with respect to the use of prior authorization under Medicare Advantage plans.

Senior Hunger Prevention Act

(S.1036/H.R. 3474 in the 118th Congress)

Sen. Casey (D-PA) and Rep. Bonamici (D-OR)

Modifies and expands nutrition programs for older adults and adults with disabilities, including the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program (SNAP) and the Commodity Supplemental Food Program (CSFP).

Medicare Dental Benefit Act

(S. 2012/H.R, 4146 in the 118th Congress)

Sen. Cardin (D-MD) and Rep. Barragan (D-CA)

Provides for Medicare coverage of dental and oral health services, including routine diagnostic and preventive services, basic and major dental services, emergency care, and dental prostheses.

Older adults living in rural areas face elevated rates of morbidity:

- **Obesity**
- **Diabetes**
- **Coronary heart disease**
- **Falls and mortality from falls**
- **Cancer**
- **COVID-19**

NRHA Rural Age Friendly Priorities

- Promote "Choosing Rural" concept to facilitate older adults aging in their rural communities
- Align system-level, multi-sector, state and federal frameworks and resources on aging for the rural end user
- Address state and federal regulatory barriers limiting rural aging in place
- Build a robust care workforce to support rural aging in place, including use of Community Health Workers

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