

119TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. 8060

To reauthorize funding for programs to prevent, investigate, and prosecute elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation, and for other purposes.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

MARCH 24, 2026

Mr. NEAL (for himself and Ms. BONAMICI) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Education and Workforce, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned

A BILL

To reauthorize funding for programs to prevent, investigate, and prosecute elder abuse, neglect, and exploitation, and for other purposes.

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 “Elder Justice Reau-
5 thorization and Modernization Act of 2026”.

1 **SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF FUNDING FOR PROGRAMS**
 2 **TO PREVENT AND INVESTIGATE ELDER**
 3 **ABUSE, NEGLECT, AND EXPLOITATION.**

4 (a) NURSING HOME WORKER TRAINING GRANTS.—
 5 Section 2041 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
 6 1397m) is amended to read as follows:

7 **“SEC. 2041. NURSING HOME WORKER TRAINING GRANTS.**

8 “(a) IN GENERAL.—

9 “(1) STATE ENTITLEMENT.—

10 “(A) IN GENERAL.—Each State shall be
 11 entitled to receive from the Secretary for each
 12 fiscal year specified in subsection (e)(1) a grant
 13 in an amount equal to the amount allotted to
 14 the State under subparagraph (B).

15 “(B) STATE ALLOTMENTS.—

16 “(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to clauses
 17 (ii) and (iii), the amount allotted to a
 18 State under this subparagraph for a fiscal
 19 year shall be—

20 “(I) the number of State resi-
 21 dents who have attained 65 years of
 22 age or have a disability (as defined in
 23 section 216(i)(1)), as determined by
 24 the Secretary using the most recent
 25 version of the American Community
 26 Survey published by the Bureau of the

1 Census or a successor data set; di-
2 vided by

3 “(II) the total number of such
4 residents of all States.

5 “(ii) LIMITATION.—The amount allot-
6 ted to a State under this subparagraph for
7 a fiscal year shall be not less than 0.25
8 percent of the available amount for the fis-
9 cal year.

10 “(iii) ADJUSTMENT OF STATE ALLOT-
11 MENTS.—Subject to clause (ii), the Sec-
12 retary shall proportionately increase or de-
13 crease the amounts allotted under this sub-
14 paragraph for a fiscal year as necessary to
15 ensure that the available amount for the
16 fiscal year is allotted among the States.

17 “(iv) REDETERMINATIONS.—

18 “(I) FREQUENCY.—The Sec-
19 retary shall make the determination
20 referred to in clause (i)(I) every 5
21 years.

22 “(II) LIMITATION.—Subject to
23 clause (ii), the amount allotted to a
24 State under this subparagraph, on the
25 basis of such a determination, for a

1 fiscal year after fiscal year 2031 shall
2 be—

3 “(aa) not less than 90 per-
4 cent of the amount of the grant
5 made to the State under this
6 subparagraph for the then pre-
7 ceding fiscal year; and

8 “(bb) not more than 110
9 percent of the amount referred to
10 in item (aa).

11 “(2) GRANTS TO INDIAN TRIBES AND TRIBAL
12 ORGANIZATIONS.—

13 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in con-
14 sultation with the Secretary of the Interior,
15 shall make grants in accordance with this sec-
16 tion to Indian tribes and tribal organizations
17 who operate at least 1 eligible setting.

18 “(B) GRANT FORMULA.—The Secretary, in
19 consultation with the Secretary of the Interior,
20 shall devise a formula for distributing among
21 Indian tribes and tribal organizations the
22 amount required to be reserved by subsection
23 (e)(1) for each fiscal year.

24 “(3) SUB-GRANTS.—A State, Indian tribe, or
25 tribal organization to which an amount is paid under

1 this section may use the amount to make sub-grants
2 to local organizations, including community organi-
3 zations, local nonprofits, elder rights and justice
4 groups, labor organizations, joint labor-management
5 organizations, and workforce development boards for
6 any purpose described in paragraph (1) or (2) of
7 subsection (b).

8 “(b) USE OF FUNDS.—

9 “(1) REQUIRED USES.—A State to which an
10 amount is paid under this section shall use the
11 amount to—

12 “(A) provide wage subsidies to eligible in-
13 dividuals;

14 “(B) provide tuition assistance to, and di-
15 rectly pay the cost of applicable licensing exam
16 fees for, eligible individuals for a degree or cer-
17 tification in a field relevant to their position re-
18 ferred to in subsection (f)(1)(A);

19 “(C) provide, subsidize, or facilitate access
20 to child care for eligible individuals, including
21 help with referrals, co-pays, or other direct as-
22 sistance as needed; and

23 “(D) provide assistance where necessary
24 with obtaining appropriate transportation, in-
25 cluding public transportation if available, or gas

1 money or transit vouchers for ride share, taxis,
2 and similar types of transportation if public
3 transportation is unavailable or impractical
4 based on work hours or location.

5 “(2) AUTHORIZED USES.—A State to which an
6 amount is paid under this section may use the
7 amount to—

8 “(A) establish a reserve fund for financial
9 assistance to eligible individuals in emergency
10 situations;

11 “(B) provide in-kind resource donations,
12 such as interview clothing and conference at-
13 tendance fees;

14 “(C) provide assistance with programs and
15 activities, including legal assistance, deemed
16 necessary to address arrest or conviction
17 records that are an employment barrier;

18 “(D) support employers operating an eligi-
19 ble setting in the State in providing employees
20 with not less than 2 weeks of paid leave per
21 year; or

22 “(E) provide other support services the
23 Secretary deems necessary to allow for success-
24 ful recruitment and retention of workers.

1 “(3) PROVISION OF FUNDS ONLY FOR THE
2 BENEFIT OF ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUALS IN ELIGIBLE
3 SETTINGS.—A State to which an amount is paid
4 under this section may provide the amount to only
5 an eligible individual or a partner organization serv-
6 ing an eligible individual.

7 “(4) NONSUPPLANTATION.—A State to which
8 an amount is paid under this section shall not use
9 the amount to supplant the expenditure of any State
10 funds for recruiting, supporting, or retaining em-
11 ployees in an eligible setting.

12 “(5) OBLIGATION DEADLINE.—A State, Indian
13 tribe, or tribal organization shall remit to the Sec-
14 retary for reallocation under this section any amount
15 paid under this section for a fiscal year that is not
16 obligated within 2 years after the end of the fiscal
17 year.

18 “(c) ADMINISTRATION.—A State to which a grant is
19 made under this section shall reserve not more than 10
20 percent of the grant to—

21 “(1) administer subgrants in accordance with
22 this section;

23 “(2) provide technical assistance and support
24 for applying for and accessing such a subgrant op-
25 portunity;

1 “(3) publicize the availability of the subgrants;

2 “(4) carry out activities to increase the supply
3 of eligible individuals; and

4 “(5) provide technical assistance to help sub-
5 grantees find and train individuals to provide the
6 services for which they are contracted.

7 “(d) REPORTS.—

8 “(1) STATE REPORTS.—Not less frequently
9 than annually, each State to which a grant has been
10 made under this section shall transmit to the Sec-
11 retary a written report describing the activities un-
12 dertaken by the State pursuant to this section dur-
13 ing the period covered by the report, which shall in-
14 clude a specification of—

15 “(A) the total amount expended in the
16 State for each type of use described in para-
17 graph (1) or (2) of subsection (b);

18 “(B) the total number of non-State organi-
19 zations in the State to which grant funds were
20 provided, and the amount so provided to each
21 such organization;

22 “(C) the change in the number of individ-
23 uals working in each job category described in
24 subsection (f)(1)(A) in an eligible setting in the

1 State due to programs or services funded with
2 grants under this section;

3 “(D) the average duration of employment
4 for each such job category for individuals re-
5 ceiving, or who previously received, services or
6 supports from a grant under this section;

7 “(E) wages of workers in each job category
8 described in subsection (f)(1)(A) in an eligible
9 setting in the State with support from grants
10 under this section, as compared to all other
11 workers in the same eligible setting in the
12 State;

13 “(F) the average amount of paid time off
14 to which a worker in each job category de-
15 scribed in subsection (f)(1)(A) in an eligible set-
16 ting in the State is entitled by their contract
17 among workers with support from a grant
18 under this section, as compared to all workers
19 in eligible settings in the State; and

20 “(G) such other data elements as the Sec-
21 retary deems relevant.

22 “(2) REPORT TO THE CONGRESS.—Not later
23 than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this
24 section, and every 4 years thereafter, the Secretary
25 shall submit to the Congress a written report out-

1 lining how the States have used the grants made
2 under this section during the period covered by the
3 report, which shall include—

4 “(A) the total amount expended in each
5 State for each type of use described in para-
6 graph (1) or (2) of subsection (b);

7 “(B) the total number of non-State organi-
8 zations in each State to which grant funds were
9 provided, and the amount so provided to each
10 such organization;

11 “(C) an analysis of the data provided in
12 the State reports; and

13 “(D) such other data elements as the Sec-
14 retary deems relevant.

15 “(e) APPROPRIATION.—Out of any funds in the
16 Treasury not otherwise appropriated, there is appro-
17 priated to the Secretary \$410,000,000 for each of fiscal
18 years 2027 through 2030 to carry out this section, of
19 which—

20 “(1) 2 percent for each fiscal year shall be re-
21 served for grants to Indian tribes and tribal organi-
22 zations; and

23 “(2) 2 percent for each fiscal year shall be re-
24 served for administrative costs associated with Fed-

1 eral staffing for grantmaking and independent eval-
2 uation activities under this section.

3 “(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

4 “(1) AVAILABLE AMOUNT.—The term ‘available
5 amount’ means, with respect to a fiscal year, the
6 amount specified in subsection (e) that remains after
7 the reservation required by such subsection for the
8 fiscal year, plus all amounts remitted to the Sec-
9 retary under subsection (b)(5) that have not been
10 reallotted under subsection (a)(1)(B)(iii).

11 “(2) ELIGIBLE INDIVIDUAL.—The term ‘eligible
12 individual’ means an individual who—

13 “(A)(i) is a qualified home health aide, as
14 defined in section 484.80(a) of title 42, Code of
15 Federal Regulations;

16 “(ii) is a nurse aide approved by the State
17 as meeting the requirements of sections
18 483.150 through 483.154 of such title, and is
19 listed in good standing on the State nurse aide
20 registry;

21 “(iii) is a personal care aide approved by
22 the State, and furnishes personal care services,
23 as defined in section 440.167 of such title;

24 “(iv) is a qualified hospice aide, as defined
25 in section 418.76 of such title;

1 “(v) is a licensed practical nurse or a li-
2 censed or certified social worker; or

3 “(vi) is receiving training to be certified or
4 licensed as such an aide, nurse, or social work-
5 er; and

6 “(B) provides (or, in the case of a trainee,
7 intends to provide) services as such an aide,
8 nurse, or social worker in an eligible setting.

9 “(3) ELIGIBLE SETTING.—The term ‘eligible
10 setting’ means—

11 “(A) a skilled nursing facility, as defined
12 in section 1819;

13 “(B) a nursing facility, as defined in sec-
14 tion 1919;

15 “(C) a home health agency, as defined in
16 section 1891;

17 “(D) a facility approved to deliver home or
18 community-based services authorized under
19 State options described in subsection (c) or (i)
20 of section 1915 or, as relevant, demonstration
21 projects authorized under section 1115;

22 “(E) a hospice, as defined in section 1814;
23 or

24 “(F) a tribal assisted living facility.

1 “(4) TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—The term ‘tribal
2 organization’ has the meaning given the term in sec-
3 tion 4 of the Indian Self-Determination and Edu-
4 cation Assistance Act.”.

5 (b) ADULT PROTECTIVE SERVICES FUNCTIONS AND
6 GRANT PROGRAMS.—

7 (1) DIRECT FUNDING; STATE ENTITLEMENT.—
8 Section 2042 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C.
9 1397m–1) is amended—

10 (A) in subsection (a), by striking para-
11 graph (2) and inserting the following:

12 “(2) APPROPRIATION.—Out of any money in
13 the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, there are
14 appropriated to the Secretary \$10,000,000 for each
15 of fiscal years 2027 through 2030 to carry out this
16 section.”;

17 (B) in subsection (b)—

18 (i) in paragraph (2), by striking “the
19 availability of appropriations and”; and

20 (ii) by striking paragraph (5) and in-
21 serting the following:

22 “(5) APPROPRIATION.—Out of any money in
23 the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, there are
24 appropriated to the Secretary \$500,000,000 for each

1 of fiscal years 2027 through 2030 to carry out this
2 section.”; and

3 (C) in subsection (c), by striking para-
4 graph (6) and inserting the following:

5 “(6) APPROPRIATION.—Out of any money in
6 the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, there are
7 appropriated to the Secretary \$80,000,000 for each
8 of fiscal years 2027 through 2030 to carry out this
9 section.”.

10 (2) STATE ENTITLEMENT; GRANTS TO INDIAN
11 TRIBES AND TRIBAL ORGANIZATIONS.—Section 2042
12 of such Act (42 U.S.C. 1397m–1) is amended—

13 (A) in subsection (a)(1)(A), by striking
14 “State and local” and inserting “State, local,
15 and tribal”;

16 (B) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “the
17 Secretary shall annually award grants to States
18 in the amounts calculated under paragraph (2)”
19 and inserting “each State shall be entitled to
20 annually receive from the Secretary in the
21 amounts calculated under paragraph (2), and
22 the Secretary may annually award to each In-
23 dian tribe and tribal organization in accordance
24 with paragraph (3), grants”;

25 (C) in subsection (b)(2)—

1 (i) in the paragraph heading, by in-
 2 serting “FOR A STATE” after “PAYMENT”;

3 (ii) by inserting “that remains after
 4 the reservation under paragraph (3)(B)”
 5 before “multiplied”; and

6 (iii) in subparagraph (B)(i)—

7 (I) by inserting “that so re-
 8 mains” after “such year”; and

9 (II) by inserting “amount so ap-
 10 propriated” and inserting “remaining
 11 amount”; and

12 (D) in subsection (b), by redesignating
 13 paragraphs (3) through (5) as paragraphs (4)
 14 through (6), respectively, and inserting after
 15 paragraph (2) the following:

16 “(3) AMOUNT OF PAYMENT TO INDIAN TRIBE
 17 OR TRIBAL ORGANIZATION.—

18 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary, in con-
 19 sultation with Indian tribes and tribal organiza-
 20 tions, shall determine the amount of any grant
 21 to be made to each Indian tribe and tribal orga-
 22 nization from the amount reserved under sub-
 23 paragraph (B) of this paragraph. Paragraphs
 24 (4) and (5) shall apply to grantees under this

1 paragraph in the same manner in which the
2 paragraphs apply to States.

3 “(B) RESERVATION OF FUNDS.—The Sec-
4 retary shall reserve 2 percent of the amount
5 made available by subsection (b)(6) for each fis-
6 cal year for grants under this paragraph.”;

7 (3) in subsection (c)—

8 (A) in paragraph (1), by striking “to
9 States” and inserting “to States, Indian tribes,
10 and tribal organizations”;

11 (B) in paragraph (2)—

12 (i) in the matter preceding subpara-
13 graph (A), by inserting “and Indian tribes
14 and tribal organizations” after “govern-
15 ment”; and

16 (ii) in subparagraph (D), by inserting
17 “or Indian tribe or tribal organization, as
18 the case may be” after “government”;

19 (C) in paragraph (4), by inserting “or In-
20 dian tribe or tribal organization” after “a
21 State” the first place it appears; and

22 (D) in paragraph (5)—

23 (i) by inserting “or Indian tribe or
24 tribal organization” after “Each State”;
25 and

1 (ii) by inserting “or Indian tribe or
 2 tribal organization, as the case may be”
 3 after “the State”; and

4 (4) by adding at the end the following:

5 “(d) DEFINITIONS OF INDIAN TRIBE AND TRIBAL
 6 ORGANIZATION.—In this section, the terms ‘Indian tribe’
 7 and ‘tribal organization’ have the meanings given the
 8 terms in section 419.”.

9 (c) LONG-TERM CARE OMBUDSMAN PROGRAM
 10 GRANTS AND TRAINING.—Section 2043 of the Social Se-
 11 curity Act (42 U.S.C. 1397m–2) is amended—

12 (1) in subsection (a), by striking paragraph (2)
 13 and inserting the following:

14 “(2) APPROPRIATION.—Out of any money in
 15 the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, there are
 16 appropriated to the Secretary to carry out this sub-
 17 section—

18 “(A) \$23,000,000 for fiscal year 2027; and

19 “(B) \$30,000,000 for each of fiscal years
 20 2028 and 2029.”; and

21 (2) in subsection (b), by striking paragraph (2)
 22 and inserting the following:

23 “(2) APPROPRIATION.—Out of any money in
 24 the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, there are
 25 appropriated to the Secretary \$30,000,000 for each

1 of fiscal years 2027 through 2030 to carry out this
 2 subsection.”.

3 (d) INCENTIVES FOR DEVELOPING AND SUSTAINING
 4 STRUCTURAL COMPETENCY IN PROVIDING HEALTH AND
 5 HUMAN SERVICES.—

6 (1) IN GENERAL.—Part II of subtitle B of title
 7 XX of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 397m–5)
 8 is amended by adding at the end the following:

9 **“SEC. 2047. INCENTIVES FOR DEVELOPING AND SUS-**
 10 **TAINING STRUCTURAL COMPETENCY IN PRO-**
 11 **VIDING HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES.**

12 **“(a) GRANTS TO STATES TO SUPPORT LINKAGES TO**
 13 **LEGAL SERVICES AND MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNER-**
 14 **SHIPS.—**

15 **“(1) IN GENERAL.—**Within 2 years after the
 16 date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary
 17 shall establish and administer a program of grants
 18 to States to support the development or adoption of
 19 approaches to maintain or improve linkages between
 20 health services, human services, and legal services
 21 for older adults and adults with disabilities, includ-
 22 ing through the following:

23 **“(A) MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIPS.—**
 24 The establishment and support of medical-legal
 25 partnerships, the incorporation of the partner-

1 ships in the elder justice framework and health
2 and human services safety net, and the imple-
3 mentation and operation of such a partnership
4 by an eligible grantee—

5 “(i) at the option of a State, in con-
6 junction with an area agency on aging;

7 “(ii) in a solo provider practice in a
8 health professional shortage area (as de-
9 fined in section 332(a) of the Public
10 Health Service Act), a medically under-
11 served community (as defined in section
12 399V of such Act), or a rural area (as de-
13 fined in section 330J of such Act);

14 “(iii) in a minority-serving institution
15 of higher learning with health, law, and so-
16 cial services professional programs;

17 “(iv) in a federally qualified health
18 center, as described in section 330 of the
19 Public Health Service Act, or look-alike, as
20 described in section 1905(l)(2)(B) of this
21 Act; or

22 “(v) in certain hospitals that are crit-
23 ical access hospitals, Medicare-dependent
24 hospitals, sole community hospitals, rural
25 emergency hospitals, or that serve a high

1 proportion of Medicare or Medicaid pa-
2 tients.

3 “(B) LEGAL HOTLINES DEVELOPMENT OR
4 EXPANSION.—The provision of incentives to de-
5 velop, enhance, and integrate platforms, such as
6 legal assistance hotlines, that help to facilitate
7 the identification of older adults and adults
8 with disabilities who could benefit from linkages
9 to available legal services such as those de-
10 scribed in subparagraph (A).

11 “(2) STATE REPORTS.—Each State to which a
12 grant is made under this subsection shall submit to
13 the Secretary biannual reports on the activities car-
14 ried out by the State pursuant to this subsection,
15 which shall include assessments of the effectiveness
16 of the activities with respect to—

17 “(A) the number of unique individuals
18 identified through the mechanism outlined in
19 paragraph (1)(B) who are referred to services
20 described in paragraph (1)(A), and the average
21 time period associated with resolving issues;

22 “(B) the success rate for referrals to com-
23 munity-based resources; and

24 “(C) other factors determined relevant by
25 the Secretary.

1 “(3) REPORT TO THE CONGRESS.—Every 4
2 years, the Secretary shall submit to the Congress a
3 written report on the activities conducted under this
4 subsection.

5 “(4) APPROPRIATION.—Out of any money in
6 the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, there are
7 appropriated to the Secretary \$125,000,000 for each
8 of fiscal years 2027 through 2030 to carry out this
9 subsection.

10 “(5) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—Support
11 provided to area agencies on aging, State units on
12 aging, eligible entities, or other community-based or-
13 ganizations pursuant to this subsection shall be used
14 to supplement and not supplant any other Federal,
15 State, or local funds expended to provide the same
16 or comparable services described in this subsection.

17 “(b) GRANTS AND TRAINING TO SUPPORT AREA
18 AGENCIES ON AGING OR OTHER COMMUNITY-BASED OR-
19 GANIZATIONS TO ADDRESS SOCIAL ISOLATION AMONG
20 OLDER ADULTS AND ADULTS WITH DISABILITIES.—

21 “(1) GRANTS.—The Secretary shall make
22 grants to eligible area agencies on aging or other
23 community-based organizations for the purpose of—

24 “(A) conducting outreach to individuals at
25 risk for, or already experiencing, social isolation

1 or loneliness, through established screening
2 tools or other methods identified by the Sec-
3 retary;

4 “(B) developing community-based interven-
5 tions for the purposes of mitigating loneliness
6 or social isolation (including independently eval-
7 uated evidence-based programs, developed with
8 multi-stakeholder input for the purposes of pro-
9 moting social connection, mitigating social isola-
10 tion or loneliness, or preventing social isolation
11 or loneliness) among at-risk individuals;

12 “(C) connecting at-risk individuals with
13 community social and clinical supports; and

14 “(D) evaluating the effect of programs de-
15 veloped and implemented under subparagraphs
16 (B) and (C).

17 “(2) TRAINING.—

18 “(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall
19 establish programs to provide and improve
20 training for area agencies on aging or commu-
21 nity-based organizations with respect to ad-
22 dressing and preventing social isolation and
23 loneliness among older adults and adults with
24 disabilities.

1 “(B) PRIORITIZATION AUTHORITY.—For
2 purposes of connecting at-risk individuals with
3 existing community social and clinical supports,
4 the Secretary may, in carrying out subpara-
5 graph (A), prioritize models that incorporate
6 training and service delivery in coordination
7 with medical-legal partnerships.

8 “(3) EVALUATION.—Not later than 3 years
9 after the date of the enactment of this section and
10 every 3 years thereafter, the Secretary shall submit
11 to the Congress a written report which provides—

12 “(A) a discussion of the status of imple-
13 menting the programs developed under this
14 subsection; and

15 “(B) an update on the independent re-
16 search and evaluation being conducted on the
17 effects and outcomes of the programs.

18 “(4) APPROPRIATION.—Out of any money in
19 the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, there are
20 appropriated to the Secretary \$63,000,000 for each
21 of fiscal years 2027 through 2030 to carry out this
22 subsection.

23 “(5) COORDINATION.—The Secretary shall co-
24 ordinate with resource centers, grant programs, or
25 other funding mechanisms established under section

1 411(a)(18) of the Older Americans Act (42 U.S.C.
2 3032(a)(18)), section 417(a)(1) of such Act (42
3 U.S.C. 3032F(a)(1)), or other programs as deter-
4 mined by the Secretary.

5 “(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

6 “(1) AREA AGENCY ON AGING.—The term ‘area
7 agency on aging’ means an area agency on aging
8 designated under section 305 of the Older Ameri-
9 cans Act of 1965.

10 “(2) SOCIAL ISOLATION.—The term ‘social iso-
11 lation’ means objectively being alone, or having few
12 relationships or infrequent social contact.

13 “(3) LONELINESS.—The term ‘loneliness’
14 means subjectively feeling alone, or the discrepancy
15 between one’s desired level of social connection and
16 one’s actual level of social connection.

17 “(4) SOCIAL CONNECTION.—The term ‘social
18 connection’ means the variety of ways one can con-
19 nect to others socially, through physical, behavioral,
20 social-cognitive, and emotional channels.

21 “(5) COMMUNITY-BASED ORGANIZATION.—The
22 term ‘community-based organization’ includes, ex-
23 cept as otherwise provided by the Secretary, a non-
24 profit community-based organization, a consortium
25 of nonprofit community-based organizations, a na-

1 tional nonprofit organization acting as an inter-
2 mediary for a community-based organization, or a
3 community-based organization that has a fiscal
4 sponsor that allows the organization to function as
5 an organization described in section 501(c)(3) of the
6 Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from
7 taxation under section 501(a) of such Code.”.

8 (2) CLARIFICATION THAT MEDICAL-LEGAL
9 PARTNERSHIPS ARE AUTHORIZED ADULT PROTEC-
10 TIVE SERVICES ACTIVITIES.—Section 2011 of such
11 Act (42 U.S.C. 1397j) is amended—

12 (A) in paragraph (2)(D), by inserting “,
13 including through a medical-legal partnership”
14 before the period; and

15 (B) by redesignating paragraphs (16)
16 through (22) as paragraphs (17) through (23),
17 respectively, and inserting after paragraph (15)
18 the following:

19 “(16) MEDICAL-LEGAL PARTNERSHIP.—The
20 term ‘medical-legal partnership’ means an arrange-
21 ment in a health care or human services setting
22 which integrates lawyers and social workers to ad-
23 dress the needs of an individual patient related to
24 social determinants of health, and to help clinicians,
25 case managers, and social workers address struc-

1 tural problems at the root of many health inequities,
2 including a multidisciplinary team integrated into
3 such a setting to address the needs and establish
4 and maintain structural competence within clini-
5 cians, case managers, and social workers to best ad-
6 dress structural problems at the root of many health
7 inequities.”.

8 (e) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 2011(12)(A)
9 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397j(12)(A)) is
10 amended by striking “450b” and inserting “5304”.

11 **SEC. 3. ASSESSMENT REPORTS.**

12 (a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the
13 date of enactment of this Act, and not less frequently than
14 once every 2 years thereafter, the Secretary of Health and
15 Human Services shall submit a report to the Committee
16 on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and
17 the Committee on Finance and the Special Committee on
18 Aging of the Senate on the programs, coordinating bodies,
19 registries, and activities established or authorized under
20 subtitle B of title XX of the Social Security Act (42
21 U.S.C. 1397l et seq.) or section 6703(b) of the Patient
22 Protection and Affordable Care Act (42 U.S.C. 1395i–
23 3a(b)). Each such report shall include—

24 (1) an update on any ongoing independently
25 conducted evaluations of the extent to which such

1 programs, coordinating bodies, registries, and activi-
2 ties have improved access to, and the quality of, re-
3 sources available to older adults, adults with disabil-
4 ities, and their caregivers to ultimately prevent, de-
5 tect, and treat abuse, neglect, and exploitation; and

6 (2) as appropriate, recommendations to Con-
7 gress on funding levels and policy changes to help
8 these programs, coordinating bodies, registries, and
9 activities better prevent, detect, and treat abuse, ne-
10 glect, and exploitation of older adults and adults
11 with disabilities.

12 (b) CLARIFICATION OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF FED-
13 ERALLY FUNDED RESEARCH AND EVALUATION.—Section
14 2023 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1397k–2) is
15 amended by adding at the end the following:

16 “(c) INDEPENDENCE OF FEDERALLY FUNDED RE-
17 SEARCH AND EVALUATION.—The Secretary shall continue
18 to maintain and support with adequate staffing and re-
19 sources the Office of Performance and Evaluation at the
20 Administration for Community Living, which shall con-
21 duct independent research and evaluation activities associ-
22 ated with the programs and policies provided for in this
23 subtitle. The research and evaluation activities shall re-
24 flect the rigor, relevance and utility, independence and ob-
25 jectivity, transparency, and ethical principles specified in

1 the evaluation policy established for the Department of
2 Health and Human Services under section 313 of title 5,
3 United States Code.”.

4 (c) APPROPRIATION.—Out of any money in the
5 Treasury not otherwise appropriated, there are appro-
6 priated to the Secretary of Health and Human Services
7 \$10,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2027 through 2030
8 to carry out this section.

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