

## Caring for Caregivers: Senator Markey's Agenda for Family Caregiving

--

Nearly 50 million caregivers provide \$600 billion in unpaid care annually. Family caregivers do this important work without pay and often without recognition because they know it is a responsibility that we carry to care for one another. That is why Senator Markey is working to get caregivers not only the recognition they deserve, but the services, supports, resources, and health care they need.

---

### 1. Economic Security for Caregivers

Senator Markey knows that providing unpaid care can be costly for family caregivers who are cutting their hours or leaving the workforce, or are paying for their loved one's health needs themselves. Senator Markey is fighting for initiatives to ensure the financial and economic security of family caregivers and their loved ones by leading efforts to establish:

- **Caregiving stipends** under the Department of Health and Human Services, modeled after the Veterans Administration's Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers;
- **Financial planning programs** for family caregivers, including budget and saving, debt, and referrals for will and estate planning, through his [Financial Services Improving Noble and Necessary Caregiving Experience \(FINANCE\) Act](#);
- **Pathways to licensing and certification for the direct care workforce**, so family caregivers can re-enter the workforce building on the skills they developed caring for their loved ones.

### 2. Supporting our Support System

Senator Markey recognizes that family caregivers may be heroes, but even heroes need a helping hand. Family caregivers report being physically and mentally taxed as well as stressed, trying to balance many responsibilities. That is why Senator Markey is championing legislation to:

- **Reduce the burden of red tape** when interacting with federal agencies for benefits or support, through his [Alleviating Barriers for Caregivers \(ABC\) Act](#);
- **Improve the accessibility of respite care** by offering this care at the same time and location as other supportive services such as financial planning, nutrition counseling, and peer support through his [Respite Care and Resources for Everyone \(CARE\) Act](#);
- **Expand access to peer support** for family caregivers to uplift one another and share how they have navigated the mental, physical, and financial aspects of their roles through his [Family Caregiver Peer Support Act](#);
- **Fund research and innovation in family caregiving** to improve the experience of family caregivers of all communities, through his [Family Caregiving Research and Innovation Act](#).

### 3. Protecting and promoting health

Senator Markey understands a caregiver's health and safety should not come at the cost of the caregiver's own. That is why he is working to ensure that both family caregivers and their loved ones are able to:

- **Access health care at the same time** through a pilot program to support co-located health care for individuals with Alzheimer's and their caregivers, such as in his [Convenient Care for Caregivers Act](#).
- **Eat healthy foods that prevent or reduce disease** by expanding medically tailored meals and produce prescription counseling and referrals through the *Older Americans Act* in his [Disease Intervention through Nutrition Education \(DINE\) Act](#).
- **Live in safe and healthy homes** by ensuring that these homes have the heating, cooling, air quality, and power for older adults to age in their homes and communities through the [Home Modifications for the Climate Crisis Act](#).
- **Have an advocate at the Department of Health and Human Services for LGBTQ+ older adults and those living with HIV**, through the [Elder Pride Act](#).