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March 2018

## RAISE Family Caregivers Act Is Expected To Spotlight the Importance of Caregivers

The RAISE Family Caregivers Act passed by Congress in January and signed by President Trump brings hope now – and help in the future – to family caregivers.

The RAISE (Recognize, Assist, Include, Support and Engage) Act requires the U.S. Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to develop, maintain and update an integrated national strategy to support family caregivers. HHS will do this by bringing together federal agencies and representatives of the private and public sectors to make recommendations. There will also be opportunities for public input.

Goals include identifying actions that government, communities, health providers, employers and others are taking and may take to support family caregivers. The agency will have 18 months to develop its initial strategy.

The approximately 40 million family caregivers in the United States are doing a job for which there is no training and no pay. They make it possible for their loved ones to stay at home and receive care from someone who loves them – often at the expense of their own physical, emotional and economic well-being.

Under the National Family Caregivers Support Program of the Older Americans Act, AgeOptions and partner agencies provide a variety of services for caregivers through community-based Caregiver Resource Centers, including outreach, respite, support groups, legal assistance, counseling and training such as the Powerful Tools for Caregivers workshops and Paths to Faithful Caregiving.

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If you or someone you know would benefit from caregiver information and programs, please call us at (708) 383-0258.

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