

FACTSHEET

MARCH 2021

alzimpact.org

Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Act

Alzheimer's disease has a devastating impact not just on those with the disease. It's also a burden on their caregivers — a job that usually falls on family and friends.

- Nearly half of all caregivers who provide help to older adults do so for someone with Alzheimer's or another dementia.
- In 2020, family members and friends of individuals living with dementia provided unpaid care valued at nearly \$257 billion.
- On average, each dementia caregiver today spends 20% more time providing care than a dementia caregiver did a decade ago. This is the equivalent of nearly six more full work weeks of unpaid care each year.

Alzheimer's and dementia caregivers often provide care that is more extensive and intimate than that of other caregivers.

- Nearly 80% of older adults with dementia receive help with a daily personal care activity such as bathing, dressing, grooming, or eating. In contrast, only 20% of older adults without dementia need help with these activities.
- One in 3 Alzheimer's caregivers provide help bathing or showering, feeding, or getting to and from the toilet — a higher percentage than caregivers of other older adults.
- Nearly two-thirds of dementia caregivers expect to continue to provide care for the next five years, compared with less than half of other caregivers.

Although caregiving is often rewarding, the intense responsibilities often take a toll on the caregiver.

- More than half of dementia caregivers report having no experience performing medical or nursing related tasks. In addition, dementia caregivers are twice as likely as other caregivers to report that these tasks are difficult.
- Nearly 75% of Alzheimer's and dementia caregivers are concerned about maintaining their own health since becoming a caregiver.
- More than 1 in 3 dementia caregivers say their health has gotten worse due to their care responsibilities. More than a quarter of dementia caregivers delay or do not do things they should to maintain their own health.

The Alzheimer's Caregiver Support Act (S. 56 / H.R. 1474) would help provide critical training and relief to Alzheimer's and dementia caregivers.

- The bill would provide grants for training and support services for families and unpaid caregivers of individuals living with Alzheimer's disease or another dementia.
- Those eligible to receive grants include community health centers, senior centers, and state agencies.
- At least 10% of the funding must go to those who serve caregivers in medically underserved communities.