



The Illinois Family Caregiver Act: An Opportunity to Support Caregivers Support HB 293 & SB 1766

Support

Fund the Illinois Family Caregiver Act

The law, PA 93-0864 passed in 2004 but never funded, established a caregiver support program to assist unpaid caregivers including grandparents raising grandkids (kinship care) through training and education to develop essential caregiving skills and other interventions to provide relief and reduce stress.

Supporting Caregivers Helps Older Illinoisans Stay Home Longer

- A 2019 report found in Illinois 1.5 million family caregivers provided 1.24 billion hours of unpaid care valued at **\$17.3 billion** annually ¹
- **50%** of voters over age 40 in Illinois are either current or former family caregivers ²
- **70%** of family caregivers felt stress emotionally:
 - According to Blue Star Families' 2020 Military Family Lifestyle Survey, 35% of active duty family respondents and 43% of veteran family respondents report being an unpaid caregiver, commonly for a spouse/partner or a parent or grandparent who is a veteran.
 - 1 in 4 caregivers took a leave of absence to provide care
- **75%** of abuse against older adults involved family members. ³ With effective caregiver support, caregivers will feel less stress which may diminish instances of abuse.

Critical issues around caregiving existed prior to the current pandemic, but COVID-19 is changing concepts of care in long-term facilities, isolation, mental wellbeing, economics, and making this issue more important now than ever.

Our Ask

\$6 million to fund the Illinois Family Caregiver Act, an investment in our family caregivers

100% of funds will go towards expanding existing services that will almost double support for:

- Evidence-based assessments that tailor interventions to caregivers' unique needs
- Support services and respite care that provide temporary relief to caregivers
- Hands-on caregiver training, education and stress relief programs
- A wide range of other support for Grandparents & others raising children
- Saves Medicaid dollars by delaying costly nursing home placement

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Reach Out