



# UNITED STATES SENATE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

RANKING MEMBER TIM SCOTT

## Dear Friend,

In the month of May, Chairman Casey and I continued our bipartisan and targeted work to improve the lives of American seniors. With May being Mental Health Awareness month, we held a hearing titled "Mental Health Care for Older Adults: Raising Awareness, Addressing Stigma, and Providing Support," and passed a resolution establishing May 16 as "Older Americans Mental Health Awareness Day" for the first time in the Senate.

One of the biggest challenges I have seen in the mental health space has been an increase in substance misuse during the pandemic. Since federal funding for substance misuse and mental health care are often split at the federal level, developing programs that address these co-occurring issues is often difficult and challenging. Secondly, many organizations do not provide both mental health and medical services in the same location. As a result, many older Americans have to visit multiple locations to obtain services, often facing confusing overlaps in their healthcare, especially if they are a dual eligible patient.

In our May 19 hearing we highlighted S.4264, the Advancing Integration in Medicaid and Medicare (AIM) Act, which I introduced alongside Chairman Casey and Senator Bill Cassidy (R-LA). The AIM Act would require states to develop strategies to integrate and coordinate care for dual eligibles, people who receive Medicare and Medicaid.

The AIM Act would remedy this issue. Many states lack fully integrated care between Medicare and Medicaid, leaving dually eligible individuals with fragmented care and confusing bureaucracy. We can and must do better for this vulnerable population. Our bill will help ensure these programs work together so that individuals in all states can access the health care they deserve.



# Older Americans Mental Health Awareness Day

This month, the Senate unanimously passed a resolution designating May 16 as “Older Americans Mental Health Awareness Day,” jointly led by myself and Chairman Casey.

Seniors are at a high risk for suicide, a reality which is rarely discussed. Older Americans should feel encouraged to seek care without the weight of stigma. Loneliness often contributes to declining mental health in seniors, and I hope this resolution will have a positive impact to ensure Americans rally around this valuable community.

Senators Susan Collins (R-Maine), Mike Braun (R-Ind.), Marco Rubio (R-Fla.), Mark Kelly (D-Ariz.), and Richard Blumenthal (D-Conn.)—all members of the Committee on Aging—joined us by cosponsoring the resolution.

Read full text of the resolution [here](#).

**TO REPORT FRAUD TO THE COMMITTEE, PLEASE CALL THE NUMBER BELOW**

**(855) 303-9470**



Did you know that 129 South Carolinians won medals at this year's National Senior Games?! What an amazing feat!

Congrats to all the medalists!  
<https://nsga.com/results-2022/>

Friend,

Thank you taking the time out of your day to read my newsletter. Please do not hesitate to reach out to any of my offices with your needs.

We are here to serve.

Wishing you all the best,

**TIM SCOTT**  
U.S. SENATOR FOR SOUTH CAROLINA

A handwritten signature in cursive script, likely reading "Tim Scott".

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