



May 13th, 2026

Ranking Member Kirsten Gillibrand's Opening Statement “Caught in the Middle: Supporting Families in the Sandwich Generation”

Thank you, Chairman Scott, for today's hearing. Sandwich generation caregivers are under extreme stress to care for their children and aging loved ones at the same time.

Today's hearing will shine a light on the immense financial and personal stress that unpaid caregivers are experiencing. Sandwich caregivers oftentimes step back from their careers to meet the caregiving demands that they have.

My bill, the Social Security Caregiver Credit Act, seeks to protect the retirement security of family caregivers. That stress that Sandwich Generation caregivers experience will worsen as States grapple with the impact of the Big Beautiful Bill, which already has many States contemplating changes to the home and community-based services that help older Americans and people with disabilities live independently in their home.

In December, this Committee solicited statements from folks about what these services meant to them. Seniors and Americans with disabilities from all 50 States sent us more than 1,000 pages worth of statements just to show how critical these services are.

One New Yorker's testimony sums up why these programs work. She told me that she supports community living because it "creates a sense of belonging and support that strengthens everyone involved."

When the Trump Administration cuts funding for these programs like home and community-based services, they are not just striking budget line items. They are gutting the support networks that help American families stay afloat, seniors age with dignity, and people with disabilities thrive.

Many of these statements we received are from the sandwich generation caregivers. Home and community-based services, along with Older Americans Act programs, are lifelines to family caregivers.