



U.S. SENATE SPECIAL COMMITTEE ON AGING

AGING ACTION REPORT

FROM RANKING MEMBER TIM SCOTT

DEAR FRIEND,

It is clear we need better coordination between Medicare and Medicaid to improve care for the 12 million Americans who use both programs. I recently held a hearing titled “Improving Health Care for People With Both Medicare and Medicaid.” During the hearing, we examined the challenges people with both Medicare and Medicaid face in navigating two distinct health care programs, and our goal is to help states further improve coverage. That is why I introduced the Supporting Care for Dual Eligibles Act. I invite you to continue reading this newsletter in order to understand how we are helping our senior Americans.

Ranking Member Tim Scott



AGING HEARING DEBRIEF: “IMPROVING HEALTH CARE FOR THOSE ELIGIBLE FOR BOTH MEDICARE AND MEDICAID”

On Thursday, February 10, Ranking Member Tim Scott of the Senate Special Committee on Aging held a hearing discussing the need to improve health care for those eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid.

Most notably, Ranking Member Scott and Chairman Casey spotlighted their bipartisan PACE Expanded Act, which aims to enable people with both Medicare and Medicaid to receive care through one organization. Additionally RM Scott discussed the Supporting Care for Dual Eligibles Act, which will help improve coordination between Medicare and Medicaid.

Individuals who are eligible for both Medicare and Medicaid have some of the greatest health needs in our nation, yet they are often left with fragmented care. As ranking member of the Senate Aging Committee, he is committed to ensuring our most vulnerable populations receive the care they need, and improving the coordination between these two distinct health programs will do just that.

For this hearing, we invited the chief of staff for the South Carolina Department of Health and Human Services, Eunice Medina, to testify. Ms. Medina has devoted herself to helping older Americans and those with disabilities. She believes each state has its own set of challenges that requires its own set of solutions.





BILL: "PACE EXPANDED ACT"

Ranking Member Scott and Chairman Casey introduced their bipartisan PACE Expanded Act to increase the availability of the Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) nationwide. PACE enables people with Medicare and Medicaid to receive care through a single organization, rather than navigating separate Medicare and Medicaid coverage.

People who qualify for both Medicare and Medicaid often have complex medical conditions, behavioral health needs, cognitive or physical disabilities and are living in poverty. They are twice as likely to use a skilled nursing facility and 10 percent more likely to have an inpatient hospital stay than Medicare-only beneficiaries. The COVID-19 pandemic has further highlighted the vulnerabilities of Medicare-Medicaid beneficiaries. Data shows there were more than twice as many COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations among Medicare-Medicaid beneficiaries compared to Medicare-only.

BILL: "Supporting Care for Dual Eligibles Act"

Ranking Member Scott introduced the Supporting Care for Dual Eligibles Act at the hearing on February 10th. This bill is aimed towards improving the coordination between Medicare and Medicaid. The bill would:

- Provide a \$100 million grant for timely, targeted assistance to state Medicaid programs to improve care for dually eligible beneficiaries;
- Permit state Medicaid offices to use their grant money for a wide variety of purposes, including hiring new workers, improving the sign-up process for beneficiaries, or developing their understanding of Medicare; and
- Be paid for by increasing the frequency of Medicaid Payment Error Rate Measurement Audits from every three years to every two years.

During the hearing, Senator Scott emphasized the vulnerability of senior citizens eligible for both programs, and his commitment to ensuring that all their needs are met.

Special Committee on Aging
628 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: (202) 224-0185

THE SWEET TEA

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3. Report identity theft to the Federal Trade Commission.
4. File a report with your local police department.

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Senator Tim Scott's Office
104 Hart Senate Office Building
Washington, DC 20510
Phone: (202) 224-6121

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