

U.S. SENATOR BOB CASEY



CHAIRMAN Special Committee on Aging

The Helping States Integrate Medicare and Medicaid Act

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Why Do We Need the Helping States Integrate Medicare and Medicaid Act?

Across the country, over [9 million Americans](#) receive Medicare and full Medicaid benefits. Despite federal and state efforts to advance programs that integrate Medicare and Medicaid, only 12 percent of seniors and people with disabilities who receive both are enrolled in programs that align their coverage. As a result, many low-income seniors and people with disabilities must navigate two separate, complex and fragmented systems, leading to missed opportunities for treatments and support, [poorer health outcomes and inefficiencies in care](#).

A key factor contributing to limited enrollment in integrated coverage is insufficient state capacity and expertise to design, implement and oversee these programs. States face resource constraints that present barriers to the development of essential knowledge and limit their ability to invest in integrated care that reflects the needs of people with Medicare and Medicaid.

What Does the Helping States Integrate Medicare and Medicaid Act?

The Helping States Integrate Medicare and Medicaid Act would provide \$300 million to states and the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services (CMS) to develop and advance integrated programs. States would be required to consult with affected groups, including people who have Medicare and Medicaid, their advocates, health plans and health care providers, to develop a strategy for integration. In line with recommendations from the Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission (MACPAC), states would be required to describe their approach to Medicare and Medicaid integration, including:

- Education and enrollment strategies to empower individuals with Medicare and Medicaid to make informed decisions about their coverage;
- Beneficiary protections intended to preserve and strengthen choice and access to care;
- Tactics to address gaps in Medicare and Medicaid data collection and sharing;
- Strategies to assess quality of care provided in integrated programs; and
- Description of how the integration approach(es) selected by the state will advance health equity.

In addition, the Helping States Integrate Medicare and Medicaid Act increases the federal match that states receive to 80 percent for administrative activities to support the implementation and advancement of these integration strategies and to finance the initial costs of building an infrastructure that is reflective of the needs and preferences of the local Medicare-Medicaid population.