RAISE Family Caregivers Act Signed Into Law

On Jan. 22, President Trump signed the Recognize, Assist, Include, Support and Engage (RAISE) Family Caregivers Act (S. 1028). The bill requires the development of a national strategy that would identify specific actions that government, communities, providers, employers, and others can take to recognize and support family caregivers. The bipartisan legislation was introduced by Senators Susan Collins (R-ME) and Tammy Baldwin (D-WI).

The RAISE Family Caregivers Act directs the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to establish a National Family Caregiving Project to develop and sustain a national strategy to support family caregivers. The bill would create a Family Caregiving Advisory Council composed of relevant federal agencies, as well as family caregivers, older adults with long-term care needs, individuals with disabilities, employers, health and social service providers, state and local officials, and others with expertise in family caregiving.

The Advisory Council would be charged with making recommendations to HHS that would be updated annually to reflect new developments. An initial inventory and assessment would determine the current state of federally funded caregiver efforts. The Council would also identify specific actions that government, communities, employers, providers, and others can take to support family caregivers.

AMDA – the Society for Post-Acute and Long-Term Care Medicine, working with a broad coalition within the Eldercare Workforce Alliance, supported the bill. The Eldercare Workforce Alliance comprises 31 national organizations united in their commitment to address the eldercare workforce shortage in order to ensure that older adults receive quality care in the settings of their choice.