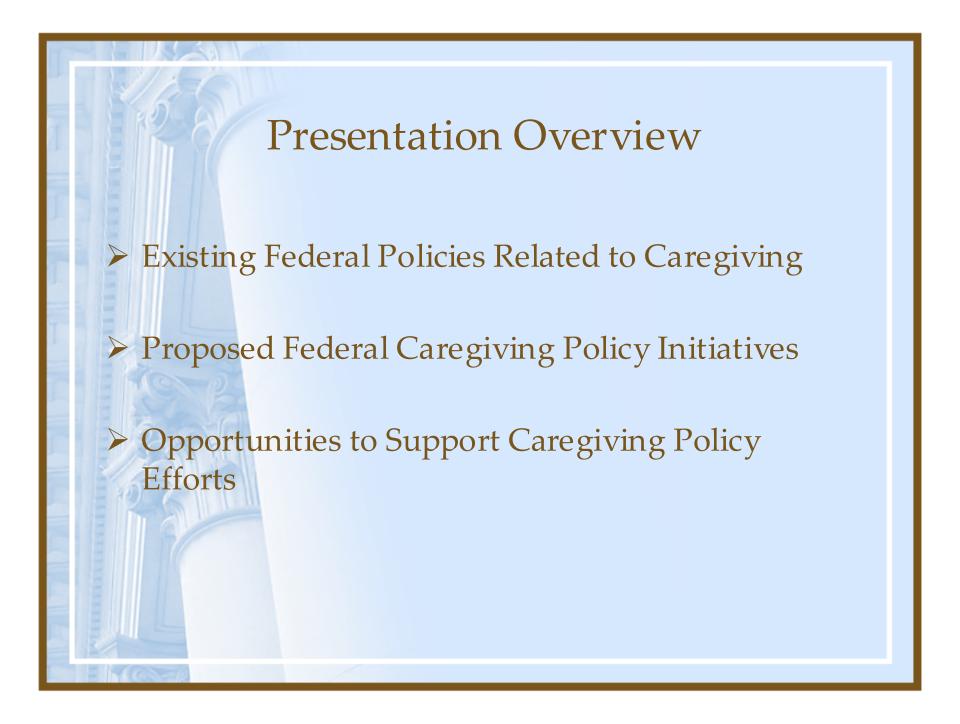
Federal Policies to Address the Health and Well Being of Caregivers Across the Lifespan

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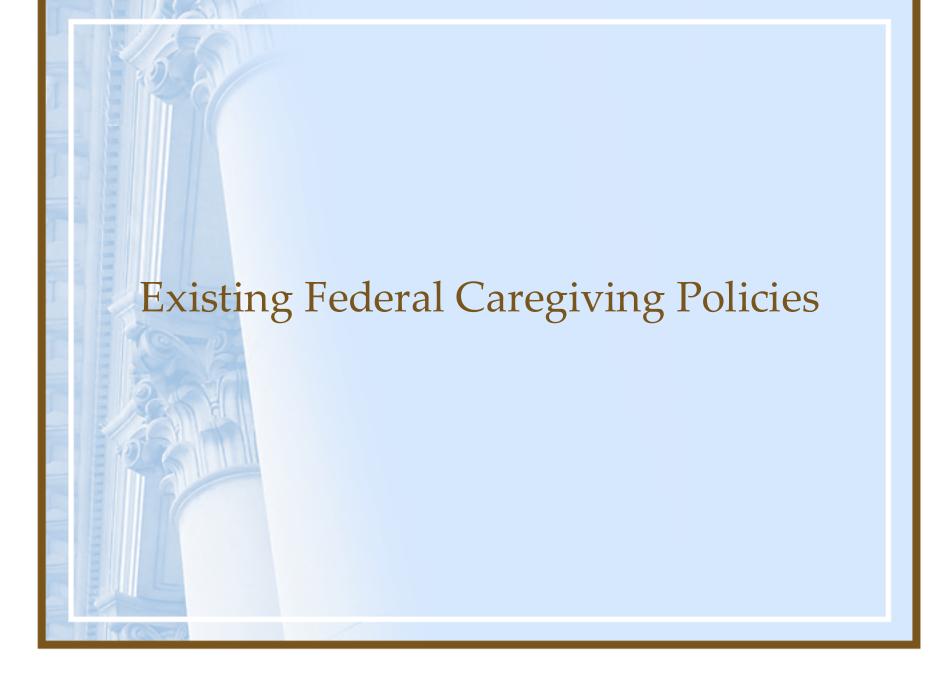
> Government Relations Office Public Interest Directorate American Psychological Association



Federal Caregiving Policy Overview

- Caregivers, advocates and experts have raised awareness regarding caregiving issues
- Policymakers are working to address growing caregiving needs at the local, state and federal level
- Developing and implementing comprehensive federal caregiving initiatives has been a slow and arduous process





Family and Medical Leave Act (P.L. 103-3)

Signed into law in 1993

Allows 12 weeks of unpaid leave annually for full-time employees to care for a family member with an illness or new child

Does not provide coverage for all workers or employment sites

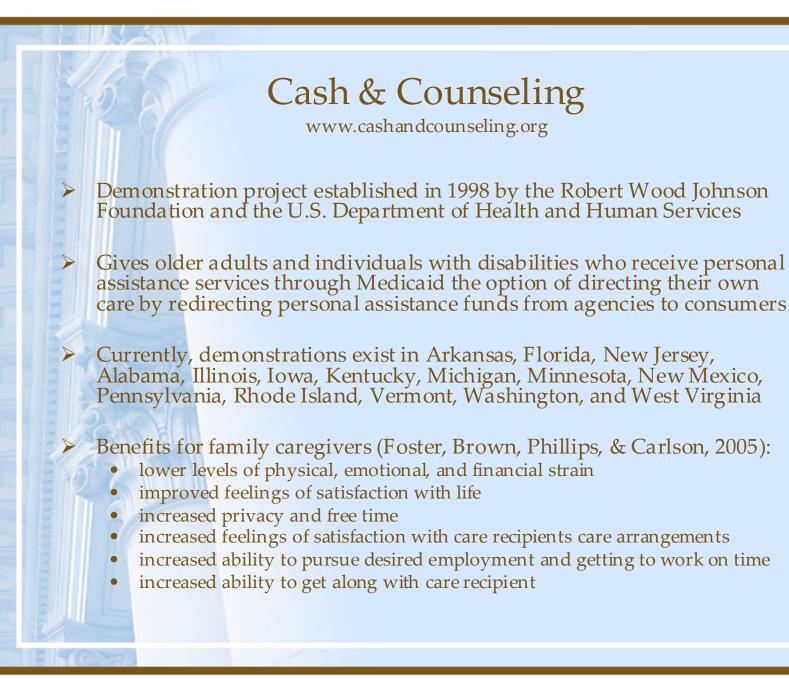
National Family Caregiver Support Program (P.L. 106-501)

- Created in 2000 (Older Americans Act Reauthorization)
- Administered by the Administration on Aging (AoA)
- Allowable services include:
 - Information about available services
 - Assistance in gaining access to supportive services
 - Individual counseling, support groups and training
 - Respite care
- Eligible Populations:
 - Family caregivers of older adults
 - Grandparents/relative caregivers of children

Lifespan Respite Care Act (P.L. 109-442)

Sponsored by Senators Clinton and Warner and Reps Ferguson and Langevin Signed into law in December 2006, authorized:

- lifespan respite programs at the state and local levels
- planned and emergency respite for family caregivers
- training/recruitment of respite workers and volunteers
- provision of information to caregivers about respite/support services
- assistance for caregivers in gaining access to such services
- establishment of a National Resource Center on Lifespan Respite Care
- \$2 million has been proposed for this initiative in the FY08 Labor, HHS, Education Appropriations Bill



2005 White House Conference on Aging Resolutions Related to Caregiving

Develop a National Strategy for Supporting Informal Caregivers of Seniors to Enable Adequate Quality and Supply of Services

Support Older Adult Caregivers Raising Their Relatives' Children

Proposed Federal Caregiving Policy Initiatives

Kinship Caregiver Support Act (S. 661/H.R. 2188)

Sponsored by Senators Clinton, Snowe, Cochran and Reps Davis and Johnson

- Authorizes grants for kinship navigator programs to state agencies with experience in addressing needs of kinship caregivers or children and connecting them with services and assistance
- Authorizes states to provide kinship guardianship assistance payments on behalf of children to grandparents and other relatives
- Authorizes kinship guardianship demonstration projects
- Requires states to:
 - notify grandparents/relatives when a child is removed from parental custody
 - explain options to participate in the child's care and placement

<u>Community Living Assistance Services and</u> <u>Supports (CLASS) Act</u> (S. 1758/H.R. 3001)

Sponsored by Senators Kennedy, Harkin and Dodd and Reps Pallone and Dingell

Designed to help adults with severe functional impairments obtain the services and supports they need to stay functional and independent

Creates a nationwide public insurance program financed through payroll deductions to help pay for long-term services and supports

Americans Giving Care to Elders (AGE) Act (S. 2267)

Sponsored by Senators Klobuchar and Mikulski

- Provides an income tax credit for eldercare expenses (up to \$1,200 each year)
- Extends and increases funding for the National Family Caregiver Support Program
- Establishes the National Resource Center on Family Caregiving to:
 - identify, develop, and disseminate information on best practices for and evidence-based models of family caregiver support programs
 - provide timely information on policy and program updates relating to family caregivers
 - partner with related organizations to disseminate practical strategies and tools to support families in their caregiving roles
 - convene educational programs and web-based seminars on family care giver issues and program development
 - provide a comprehensive Internet website with a national searchable database on family caregiver programs and resources in the States

The Future of Caregiving Policy

- Insufficient resources currently exist to manage the growing caregiving needs in our country
- Continue support for existing programs (e.g., NFCSP)
- Continue support for pending federal legislative initiatives
- Need for continued advocacy driven by research, clinical knowledge and individual needs and preferences

How the Public Health Community Can Enhance Caregiving Policy

Share research and clinical expertise with policy makers (e.g., professional organizations, University liaisons, directly)

Attend an advocacy workshop and lobby day

- Visit with policy makers in Washington or in the state/district
- Join a public policy/advocacy action network
- Respond to organizational action alerts (e.g., e-mail, telephone, fax)
- Testify or present at congressional hearings and briefings
- Consider a policy fellowship in Washington, DC

For Further Information:

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