

Legislation Addressing Social Isolation, Loneliness, and Connection

National Strategy for Social Connection Act (H.R. 8490, S.2350)

Introduced by Sen. Chris Murphy (D-CT) and Sen. Tina Smith (D-MN) in July 2023 and Rep. Ami Bera (D-CA) in May 2024; this bill would:

- Establish an Office of Social Connection Policy within the Executive Office of the President to form an Advisory Council to convene stakeholders and work across federal departments and agencies.
- Require the Office to develop a government-wide strategy to integrate social connection policy across federal departments and agencies.
- Require an annual report to Congress that evaluates all federal efforts to improve social connection, recommendations for legislation changes needed, and an evaluation of the implementation of the national strategy.
- Authorize \$5,000,000 be appropriated to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention for FY2024 through 2029 to conduct research on loneliness and social connection.

Addressing Social Isolation and Loneliness in Older Adults (SILO) Act of 2023 (H.R. 2692, S. 3437)

Introduced by Rep. Linda Sanchez (D-CA) and Sen. Chris Murphy (D-CT) in April 2023, and Sen. Bob Casey (D-PA) in December 2023; this bill would:

- Appropriate \$62,500,000 annually for FY 2024 – 27 for the creation of grants to prevent and address social isolation or loneliness among older adults and individuals with disabilities. The Department of Health and Human Services must award these grants to area agencies on aging and community-based organizations for the purpose of conducting outreach, education, and interventions.
- Require a report to Congress every three years on the extent to which the programs established under this Act address such social isolation and loneliness.

Improving Measurements for Loneliness and Isolation Act (H.R. 6284, S. 3260)

Introduced by Reps. Mike Flood (R-NE) and David Trone (D-MD) and 8 cosponsors and Sen. Pete Ricketts (R-NE) and Maggie Hassan (D-NH) in November 2023; this bill would:

- Establish a national working group to formulate recommendations for standardized measurements of loneliness and isolation for use in public and private research, including surveys across varying populations, strategic decision making, planning, and evaluation of strategies to address loneliness.
- Require a report to Congress describing the work and recommendations of the working group. Members of the working group include representatives from across federal agencies and other organizations and subject-matter experts.

Social Engagement and Network Initiatives for Older Relief (SENIOR) Act (S. 4374)

Introduced by Sens. Marco Rubio (R-FL), Rick Scott (R-FL), and Tina Smith (D-MN) in May 2024 and Rep. Jim Banks (R-IN) among 11 cosponsors in August 2024; this bill would:

- Amend the Older Americans Act (OAA) to definitionally include screening for loneliness and coordination of supportive services and health care to address the negative health effects of loneliness alongside current references to social isolation.
- Require the Secretary of Health and Human Services (HHS) to prepare an interim and final report within 2 and 5 years, respectively that:
 - includes information on programs that address the negative health effects associated with loneliness of older individuals;
 - examines the relationship between multigenerational family units and loneliness in older individuals;
 - identifies whether loneliness is being adequately addressed under current programs;
 - and recommends solutions for reducing the negative health effects associated with loneliness and fostering strong and stable connections across generations.

Combating Loneliness Act (H.R. 10448)

Introduced by Reps. Becca Balint (D-VT) and Paul Tonko (D-NY) in December 2024; this bill would:

- Invest in physical infrastructure that creates social connection through playgrounds, community gardens, recreation centers, and bike lanes
- Bolster third-spaces such as libraries, recreation centers, veteran service organizations, and senior centers.
- Reauthorize the Certified Community Behavior health Clinics, funds mental health support groups, encourages peer mental health first aid training, creates new grants for mental health providers, and extends pandemic-era programs that prevent burnout of healthcare providers
- Increase funding to existing mental health programs in schools and increase access to school-based health services and after-school programs.

Our Members

The Action Network invites organizations to join us in the mission to end social isolation and loneliness.

Ready to join the movement? Contact our Partnerships Manager, Meg Wallace, at margaret@social-connection.org!

