



Coalition Applauds President Biden's Executive Order to Support Family Caregivers, Veterans, and Long-Term Care Workers

Washington, D.C. – April 18, 2023 – Today, President Biden [announced](#) an Executive Order that directs over fifty federal agencies to expand access to affordable, high-quality childcare and long-term care services. Data shows that the cost of childcare has risen 26 percent in the past decade, and long-term care costs have increased by 40 percent, leading to shortages in care for individuals and families.

“The Coalition applauds today’s Executive Order which recognizes the need to make supporting caregivers, Veterans, and long-term care workers a national priority,” said Andrew MacPherson, Founder and Chairman of the Coalition to End Social Isolation and Loneliness. “Since its inception, the Coalition has advocated for solutions that encourage individuals to be socially connected and engaged in their communities.”

Everyday millions of Americans provide care to their children, aging family members, and individuals with disabilities. While the act of providing care can be fulfilling and meaningful, parents and caregivers without adequate workplace, financial, and other supports are at higher risk of becoming isolated, lonely, and depressed. In addition, more than half of U.S. Veterans report feeling lonely often or sometimes; coupled with this is the strong association with a broad range of mental and physical health measures, including suicidal ideation. The Coalition commends President Biden on addressing these key populations.

The Coalition is pleased to see that this comprehensive set of executive actions includes:

- Directing the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS) to consider leveraging Medicaid funding to ensure there are enough home care workers to provide care to seniors and people with disabilities.
- Building on the minimum staffing standards for nursing homes and condition a portion of Medicare payments on how well a nursing home retains workers.
- Directing HHS to consider testing a new dementia care model with respite and support during hospital discharge planning processes, building on the National Strategy to Support Caregivers.
- Directing the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) to consider expanding access to the Program of Comprehensive Assistance for Family Caregivers and provide more mental health support for caregivers enrolled in that program.

“We will continue to advocate for policies that prioritize the wellbeing of parents, caregivers, Veterans, and long-term care workers, and stand ready to work with the Administration to implement these critical steps to create a more connected society,” said MacPherson.

The Coalition to End Social Isolation & Loneliness brings together a diverse set of national organizations including consumer groups, health plans, health care providers, technology innovators, patient advocates and more to develop and advocate for federal policy solutions to address the epidemic of social isolation and loneliness. The 2023-2024 Policy Priorities can be found [here](#). For more information, please visit: www.endsocialisolation.org.

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