

CARE Act improves outcomes for patients, family caregivers and providers

Family caregivers enable our older family members and friends to stay at home, where costs are lowest and where they want to be. Family and friend caregivers perform a variety of caregiving duties—including, but not limited to, help with bathing, dressing, feeding, medication management, wound care, and transportation. Many caregivers perform these duties while balancing other demands on their time, including full- or part-time employment.

These essential care team partners are also a key source of information about their loved ones' health histories, treatments, medications, and allergies. They play a vital role in assisting family members to communicate with health and long-term care providers. Yet, too often, caregivers are excluded from critical care, discharge planning, and treatment discussions.

For many caregivers and patients, the transition from hospital to home can be challenging. Patients often leave the hospital with new medications, diets, and/or care needs.

WAAN's Position: Pass the Caregiver Advise, Record, Enable (CARE) Act to help family caregivers when their loved ones go into the hospital and as they transition back home. (2019-2020 Wisconsin Legislature - [AB 584](#)/[SB 516](#)).

Better communication through identification, notification, and education

The Caregiver Advise, Record, Enable (CARE) Act supports family caregivers when their relatives go into the hospital and as they transition home.

The CARE Act requires hospitals to engage with caregivers by:

1. Asking patients if they have a caregiver and recording it in the medical record.
2. Contacting that caregiver if the patient is to be transferred or discharged.
3. Teaching the caregivers how to provide the care needed after discharge.

Wisconsin family caregivers want the CARE Act passed in Wisconsin and are calling on state legislators to champion this legislation and reintroduce the CARE Act.

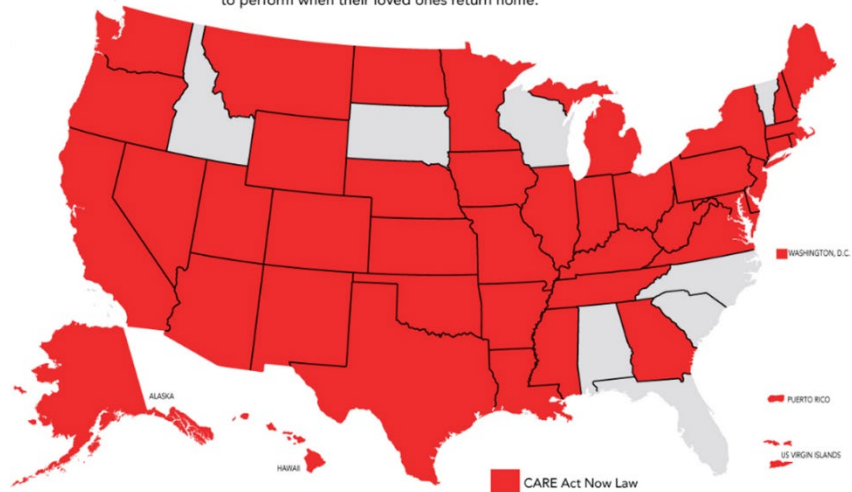
CARE Act legislation was introduced in Wisconsin in 2019 ([AB 584](#)/[SB 516](#)) but was never acted upon by the state legislature.

The CARE Act has already been passed in 45 states and territories¹. Wisconsin is among eight remaining states that have yet to pass and implement the CARE Act. This legislation helps to reduce unnecessary hospital readmissions and improves outcomes for patients, family caregivers, and providers.²



The Caregiver Advise, Record, Enable (CARE) Act

The CARE Act is a commonsense solution that supports family caregivers when their loved ones go into the hospital, and provides for instruction on the medical tasks they will need to perform when their loved ones return home.



The Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) recently finalized its proposal to pay practitioners to train caregivers in carrying out a treatment plan.

Beginning in 2024, Medicare will pay for these services when furnished by a physician or a non-physician practitioner (nurse practitioners, clinical nurse specialists, certified nurse-midwives, physician assistants, and clinical psychologists) or therapist (physical therapist, occupational therapist, or speech language pathologist) as part of the patient’s individualized treatment plan or therapy plan of care. **Paying practitioners to provide caregiver training services will help hospitals to implement the CARE Act.**

Find this and other WAAN issue briefs at: <https://gwaar.org/issues-and-initiatives>

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¹ Reinhard, Susan C., Selena Caldera, Ari Houser, and Rita B. Choula. *Valuing the Invaluable 2023 Update: Strengthening Supports for Family Caregivers*. Washington, DC: AARP Public Policy Institute. March 8, 2023. <https://doi.org/10.26419/ppi.00082.006>

² Reinhard, Susan C., Young, Heather M., Ryan, Elaine, Choula, Rita B. *The CARE Act Implementation: Progress and Promise*. Washington, DC: AARP Public Policy Institute. March 2019.

Core member organizations

Aging and Disability Professionals Association of Wisconsin (ADPAW) • Alzheimer’s Association Wisconsin Chapter Board on Aging and Long Term Care (BOALTC) • Wisconsin Adult Day Services Association (WADSA) • Wisconsin Association of Area Agencies on Aging (W4A) • Wisconsin Association of Benefit Specialists (WABS) • Wisconsin Association of Nutrition Directors (WAND) • Wisconsin Association of Senior Centers (WASC) • Wisconsin Family and Caregiver Support Alliance (WFACSA) • Wisconsin Institute for Healthy Aging (WIHA) • Wisconsin Senior Advocates • Wisconsin Senior Corps Association (WISCA) • Wisconsin Tribal Aging Unit Association

Mission

The Wisconsin Aging Advocacy Network (WAAN) works with and for all older adults by educating community members and policy makers on priority issues while advocating for meaningful change. Learn more at <https://gwaar.org/waan>.