

HB 245 – Pennsylvania Family Caregiver Support Act Sign-on Letter

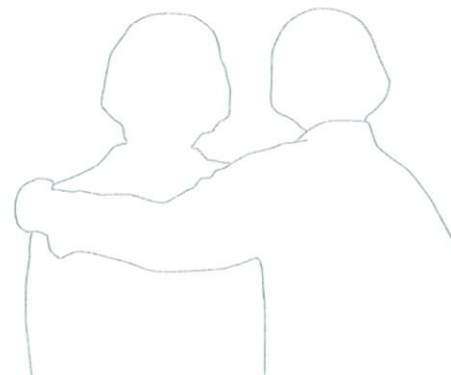
For over 20 years, the Pennsylvania Family Caregiver Support Program has served as a national model when it comes to helping seniors stay independent and age in the community. It does this by reimbursing eligible caregivers for critical out-of-pocket expenses associated with caring for their loved one, thus allowing the senior to remain at home longer. House Bill 245 amends the Pennsylvania Family Caregiver Support Act (FCSA) to bring the Commonwealth's eligibility requirements in line with those of the current federal program, such as allowing non-resident family members, friends or neighbors to be eligible for funding. Lastly, for the FIRST time since the program's inception in 1990, the bill also increases the reimbursement limit for all-important respite care and other caregiving expenses, as well as the maximum lifetime grant limit for home modifications and assistive devices.

Programs like Family Caregiver Support – which allow older Pennsylvanians the opportunity to remain at home and age in place – are a much more economical alternative than funding the high cost of institutional care settings including nursing homes. Passage of House Bill 245 not only allows more seniors to maintain the quality of life they want and deserve but ultimately ensures greater fiscal responsibility to taxpayers. Furthermore, this is NOT an entitlement program and House Bill 245 does not call for nor require any additional appropriation from the Commonwealth. For that reason and those listed above, we strongly advocate full passage of House Bill 245 this year.

This legislation has unanimously passed the Pennsylvania House for the second time in under three years and thus merits a full vote before the entire Senate. Please stand behind family caregivers across the Commonwealth by helping to bring HB 245 to a final & successful Senate vote!

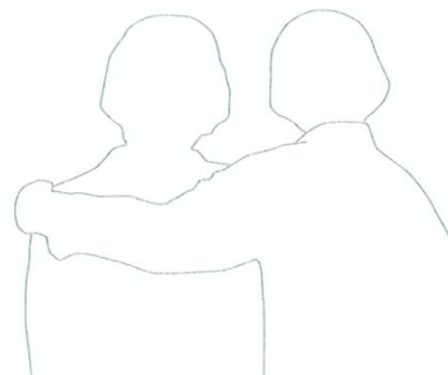
▪ Organizations

- **AARP Pennsylvania**
- **ACHIEVA**
- **Alleghenies United Cerebral Palsy**
- **Alzheimer's Association – Pennsylvania Public Policy Coalition**
- **Beaver County Rehabilitation Center**
- **Center for Advocacy for the Rights and Interests of the Elderly (CARIE)**
- **Consumer Health Coalition**



HB 245 – Pennsylvania Family Caregiver Support Act Sign-on Letter (cont.)

- Eastern Pennsylvania Geriatrics Society
 - Geisinger Health System
 - Home Instead Senior Care
 - Homemaker – Home Health Aide Service of Beaver County, Inc.
 - Montgomery County Aging and Adult Services
 - Moriarty Consultants, Inc.
 - National Association of Social Workers – Pennsylvania Chapter
 - National MS Society – Pennsylvania Chapters
 - North Hills Community Outreach
 - Sarah Adult Day Services
 - SEIU Healthcare Pennsylvania
 - Stuebgen House Adult Day Health Center
 - Pennsylvania Association of Area Agencies on Aging
 - Pennsylvania Bar Association, Elder Law Section
 - Pennsylvania Coalition of Nurse Practitioners
 - Pennsylvania Health Access Network (PHAN)
 - Pennsylvania Health Law Project
 - Pennsylvania State Nurses Association
 - Personal Touch Home Care Aides of PA, Inc.
 - Philadelphia Unemployment Project (PUP)
 - Pittsburgh Area Jewish Committee
 - Pittsburgh Community Services, Inc.
 - United Cerebral Palsy of Pennsylvania
 - United Cerebral Palsy/CLASS – Pittsburgh
 - United Way of Beaver County
 - United Way of Southeastern Pennsylvania
 - York County Area Agency on Aging
- **Individual Advocates**
- Alison Hirsch – Williamsport, PA
 - Charity Leonette – Pittsburgh, PA
 - Mildred Morrison – Pittsburgh, PA
 - Joyce Schlag – Pittsburgh, PA



HB 245 – Pennsylvania Family Caregiver Support Act Sign-on Letter (cont.)

- Joan Martin – Millersville, PA
- Bruce Simmeth – Monaca, PA
- Leslie Bachurski – Pittsburgh, PA
- Elyse Heyman – Pittsburgh, PA
- Pamela Vingle – West Mifflin, PA
- Dr. Christine Arenson, MD – Merion Station, PA
- Sarah Goldstein – Pittsburgh, PA
- Ted Zimmer – Pittsburgh, PA
- Larry Powell – Pittsburgh, PA
- Barbara Murock – Pittsburgh, PA
- Beth Heeb – Pittsburgh, PA
- Jen Martchek – Wexford, PA
- Eva Bednar – McKees Rocks, PA
- Dr. Andrea Fox, MD – Pittsburgh, PA
- Sally Jo Snyder – Freeport, PA
- Marian Salamon – Pittsburgh, PA
- Donald Smith – Philadelphia, PA
- Jessica Gold – Pittsburgh, PA
- Roxann Tyger – Indiana, PA
- Lucy Seger – Bethel Park, PA
- Mark Belding – McKeesport, PA
- Susan Harriger – Robinson Township, PA
- Tracy Barton – Pittsburgh, PA
- Lonny Boord – Conway, PA
- Linda Gianella, RN – Moon Township, PA
- Asia Pruden – Pittsburgh, PA
- Paul Block – Pittsburgh, PA
- Karen Glass – Canonsburg, PA
- Jessica Strong – Pittsburgh, PA
- Iris R. Machesky – Bethel Park, PA
- Michele Upvall – Pittsburgh, PA
- Bernard Bechara – Pittsburgh, PA
- Joyce Kane – McKees Rocks, PA

