



Support Montana Seniors & Their Family Caregivers

118,000 Montanans are caring for an aging parent or loved one, helping them to live independently in their own homes. These family caregivers have a huge responsibility, and we can take some common sense steps that would make the world of difference to them. That's why AARP urges lawmakers to enact **The Caregiver Act** to better support family caregivers as they safely help Montana seniors stay at home.

What is The CAREGIVER Act? HB 163 sponsored by Rep. Custer

The Caregiver Act recognizes the critical role family caregivers play in keeping their loved ones out of costly institutions.

The bill features three important provisions:

- ♥ The name of the family caregiver is recorded when a loved one is admitted into a hospital or rehabilitation facility;
- ♥ The family caregiver is notified if the loved one is to be discharged to another facility or back home; and,
- ♥ The facility must provide an explanation and live instruction of the medical tasks – such as medication management, injections, wound care, and transfers – that the family caregiver will perform at home.

Why Montana Needs The Caregiver Act

- ♥ Most care recipients (69%) did not have a home visit by a health care professional after discharge from the hospital.
- ♥ Almost half (46%) of family caregivers perform medical or nursing tasks for their loved ones with multiple chronic physical and cognitive conditions.
- ♥ Three out of four (78%) who provide these medical or nursing tasks manage medications, including administering intravenous fluids and injections.
- ♥ Most family caregivers report that they received little or no training to perform these tasks.

AARP report "Home Alone: Family Caregivers Provide Complex Chronic Care"

HB 163 The Caregiver Act sponsored by Rep. Geraldine Custer

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Family Caregivers in Montana

- ♥ The vast majority of older Americans/Montanans residents want to live independently at home.
- ♥ Most seniors who receive assistance at home rely exclusively on unpaid family caregivers for help.
- ♥ More than 118,000 family caregivers in Montana help their loved ones to live independently – keeping them out of costly institutions, such as nursing homes.
- ♥ In Montana, family caregivers provide unpaid care valued at about \$1.4 billion annually.
- ♥ Family caregivers perform a variety of caregiving duties, including help with bathing and dressing, feeding, medication management, wound care, transportation, and more.
- ♥ Montana ranks 49th in the nation for support of unpaid family caregivers.