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(Original Signature of Member)

116TH CONGRESS
2D SESSION

H. R. _____

Making emergency supplemental appropriations for social isolation services
under the Older Americans Act of 1965.

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Mr. TRONE introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee
on _____

A BILL

Making emergency supplemental appropriations for social
isolation services under the Older Americans Act of 1965.

1 *Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representa-*
2 *tives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

3 **SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

4 This Act may be cited as the “Strengthening Social
5 Connections Act of 2020”.

6 **SEC. 2. SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS.**

7 The following sums are hereby appropriated, out of
8 any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated,

1 for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2021, and for
2 other purposes, namely:

3

4 DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN
5 SERVICES

6 ADMINISTRATION FOR COMMUNITY LIVING

7 AGING AND DISABILITY SERVICES PROGRAMS

8 For an additional amount for “Aging and Disability
9 Services Programs”, for carrying out the Older Americans
10 Act of 1965 (42 U.S.C. 3001 et seq.) (“OAA”),
11 \$104,000,000, to remain available through September 30,
12 2022, of which—

13 (1) \$80,000,000 shall be made available for
14 supportive services under part B of title III of such
15 Act (42 U.S.C. 3030d et seq.), provided that such
16 amount made available under this paragraph shall
17 be made available for prevention and mitigation ac-
18 tivities focused on addressing extended social isola-
19 tion among older individuals, which may include ac-
20 tivities for investments in technological equipment
21 and solutions or other strategies aimed at alleviating
22 the negative health effects of social isolation due to
23 long-term stay-at-home recommendations for older
24 individuals for the duration of the coronavirus pan-
25 demic;

1 (2) \$18,000,000 shall be made available for ac-
2 tivities authorized under sections 202(a)(33),
3 202(b)(11), and 411(a)(18) of such Act (42 U.S.C.
4 3012(a)(33), 3012(b)(11), and 3032(a)(18)), pro-
5 vided that such amount made available under this
6 paragraph shall be made available for—

7 (A) technical assistance to State agencies,
8 area agencies on aging, aging services and nu-
9 trition providers, and other community groups,
10 to reduce the negative health effects of social
11 isolation and loneliness among older individuals
12 by promoting social engagement; and

13 (B) coordinated efforts to prioritize activi-
14 ties that prevent and address social isolation
15 and loneliness among a wide range of older in-
16 dividuals, including activities for strategies that
17 identify best practices, support demonstration
18 of innovative approaches in the aging services
19 network, conduct public education, develop
20 partnerships and collaborations to advance pro-
21 gram objectives, or enhance the capacity of the
22 aging network, and other activities as appro-
23 priate to mitigate social isolation and loneliness
24 among older individuals; and

1 (3) \$6,000,000 shall be made available for
2 aging network support activities, provided that such
3 amount made available under this paragraph shall
4 be used to develop targeted outreach strategies to
5 reach particularly at-risk populations, including—

6 (A) populations targeted under section
7 306(a)(4)(A)(i)(I) of such Act (42 U.S.C.
8 3026(a)(4)(A)(i)(I)); and

9 (B) older individuals whose needs were the
10 focus of centers funded under title IV of such
11 Act (42 U.S.C. 3031 et seq.) for fiscal year
12 2019:

13 *Provided*, That, notwithstanding section 304(d)(1)(D) of
14 the OAA (42 U.S.C. 3024(d)(1)(D)) or any other provi-
15 sion in such Act, the requirement for a non-Federal share
16 under such section shall not apply for fiscal year 2021
17 with respect to services under part B of title III of such
18 Act: *Provided further*, That the amount appropriated
19 under this heading is designated by Congress as being for
20 an emergency requirement pursuant to section
21 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency
22 Deficit Control Act of 1985 (2 U.S.C. 901(b)(2)(A)(i)).