

Institute for Disability Studies  
ShareCare Notes: Lifespan Respite  
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### 1. Lifespan Respite Care Act

The Lifespan Respite Care Act (HR 3248) was favorably reported out of the House Energy and Commerce Committee before Congress adjourned. After successfully avoiding a last minute amendment from Rep. Stearns (R-FL) to impose mandatory cost sharing, the vote was unanimous. Many advocates, including our Association of University Centers on Disabilities, have been working for over five years to move this important bill that would provide grants to states to set up statewide coordinated lifespan respite programs. Family caregivers of persons of all ages with special needs will be eligible for this expanded resource. There are a few changes from the introduced bill. Most importantly, the authorization for appropriations was significantly reduced from \$90 million to \$30 million. In addition, due to strong pressure from the Administration on Aging, the Aging and Disability Resource Centers (ADRC) will now be the lead eligible entity. If you would like a side by side comparison of the bill waiting for the Senate, just e-mail us. In the meantime, be sure to tell your senator to support this very important bill.

### 2. Study of Caregiver Costs

MetLife released a study this summer conducted by its research center. The study focuses on the cost of family caregiving, particularly as it impacts businesses whose employees are or become family caregivers. The results of this study have been one way efforts have been directed to Congress to stress the importance of family caregiver resources such as respite services. The bottom line is pretty impressive. To read the study and other related ones, see [www.Maturemarketinstitute.com](http://www.Maturemarketinstitute.com) and click on "what's new."

### 3. Shortage of Professional Caregivers Expected

As the baby boomers age, it is expected there will be fewer and fewer caregivers available to meet their needs. It stands to reason that more family members will be placed in this role even though there are fewer of them as well. Another study suggests the need for more respite services due to the health effects of family caregivers. To read more, see

[http://www.kaisernetwork.org/daily\\_reports/rep\\_index.cfm?DR\\_ID=40106](http://www.kaisernetwork.org/daily_reports/rep_index.cfm?DR_ID=40106)

#### 4. Upcoming Events

ShareCare Bank Pot Luck Supper, October 19, 6 p.m. at Westminster Presbyterian Church, 115 N. 25th Avenue, Hattiesburg. This social is open to anyone interested in learning more about ShareCare Bank. Come, bring a friend and a covered dish and help us build a stronger community.

A note from Project ShareCare: The staff at Project ShareCare select books, articles and news stories to share with you from the news wires, scientific/medical journals and other selected media. We aim to provide you with relevant and timely information to help you in your role as a caregiver. The articles we share with you are not necessarily the opinion expressed by Project ShareCare. We strongly encourage you to please read the original articles and form your own opinions.

Project ShareCare Bank, funded by the Mississippi Council on Developmental Disabilities, is a community building project that provides networking and neighborly services for families who have an adult member with a disability or chronic condition.

ShareCare is sponsored by the Institute for Disability Studies (IDS), Mississippi's University Center for Excellence in Developmental Disabilities (UCEDD). IDS provides university training, community service activities, research, and information that promote the independence, productivity, and community inclusion of individuals with disabilities and their families. For more information about IDS, visit the Institute's Web site at [www.usm.edu/ids](http://www.usm.edu/ids) or call 1-888-671-0051 (TTY). To make a tax-deductible gift to IDS for this and other projects, visit <http://www.usm.edu/ids/supportus.html>.

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