



NEW YORK STATE SENATOR

Martin J. Golden

Aarp Commends Senator Golden for Voting to Help New York's Family Caregivers

MARTIN J. GOLDEN February 5, 2015

ALBANY, New York – Family caregivers are too often left unprepared to provide proper care before taking their loved ones home from the hospital. State Senator Martin Golden cast a key vote this week to advance legislation ensuring caregivers are offered instruction in any post-discharge tasks their older parents, spouses or other loved ones will need at home, fostering better care and potentially avoiding costly hospital re-admissions.

Senator Golden and his colleagues on the Senate Health Committee unanimously advanced the CARE Act (S.676-Hannon) this week for consideration by the full Senate.

The Caregiver Advise, Record and Enable Act, supported by a wide range of health, consumer, aging and disability organizations, requires hospitals to offer demonstrations and instructions on any post-discharge care and tasks family caregivers will have to perform at home, such as administering multiple medications, dressing wounds and operating medical equipment.

The bill also requires that patients' designated family caregivers be identified and included in official medical records and that hospitals notify family caregivers prior to a patient's transfer or discharge. AARP research shows that about half of all family caregivers perform medical and nursing tasks for their loved ones.

"As a longtime caregiver, along with my brothers and sisters of my Mom who suffered from Alzheimer's, I can tell you that this legislation is and remains a priority of mine," Senator Golden said. "There are so many families who are faced with the need to provide specialty care for a loved one, but without training and much knowledge. There is no denying that one should be released from a hospital setting to a family capable of caring for them, and we

must also help partly alleviate the overwhelming responsibility a family faces with a discharge. This bill will rightly assist countless New Yorkers and I urge my colleagues in the State Legislature to adopt this legislation.”

“AARP commends Senator Golden for recognizing that family caregivers need help - and for supporting a common sense solution to help caregivers be prepared to provide the care at home that our aging parents, spouses and loved ones need,” said Beth Finkel, AARP NY State Director. “Helping caregivers helps our loved ones age independently, in their own homes – rather than in costly, taxpayer-financed nursing homes. We urge the full Senate and the Assembly to pass the CARE Act.”

Gov. Andrew Cuomo voiced support for the key provisions of the CARE Act in his Opportunity Agenda/State of the State 2015 through the Caregiver Support Initiative (pages 305-306).

More than 90% of New York voters 50 and older think hospitals should “explain and demonstrate” to family caregivers medical tasks they’ll have to perform when their loved ones are sent home from the hospital, a 2014 AARP survey found.