

From: South Carolina Respite Coalition <respite@screspitcoalition.org>

To: Kester, Tonykester@aging.sc.gov

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Subject: Call your US Rep about National Lifespan Respite Care Act

The National Respite Network needs you to call your U.S. Representative today or Thursday. *Ask him to sign on to the Langevin/Harper "Dear Colleague" letter to Congressional appropriators requesting \$5 million for the Lifespan Respite Care Program in FY 2018.* No S.C. legislator has signed on yet. The deadline for House members to sign is Friday, 3/31.

Why should YOU care?

South Carolina received one of the first twelve Lifespan Respite Care Grants in 2009, and it was a key factor in us securing state funding earmarked for respite from the S.C. Legislature. Now we have \$2 million a year as a recurring line item in the Lt. Governor's budget, as well as a solid stream of funding of over \$774,000 from the state for Alzheimer's respite.

NOTE: These are seed grants to stimulate the development of local respite programs and raise awareness. The total amount for the entire USA in the Lifespan Respite Care Act is only \$2.6 million, while for S.C. alone we now have almost \$3 million going directly to families in the form of vouchers. This NATIONAL request is for the amount in next year's federal budget to be raised to \$5 million – FOR THE WHOLE COUNTRY!

Call the Capital Switchboard and ask for your representative:
1-202-225-3121 (in fact we suggest you put it in your phone for future use.
Democracy is not a spectator sport!)

Don't know who represents you or how to reach him?
go to www.scstatehouse.gov/legislatorssearch.php
Once there, you put in your zip code and you can see all your
national and local legislators, indeed everyone who represents
you and even their home and business addresses.

*You can do something important for family caregiver
today! It's Easy as Pie!*

Inspire your US Representative (phoning is best all the time, but
especially in this situation.)

Inspire them with your sincerity and interest in family caregivers.
Remind them how much South Carolina has benefited.

Encourage them to sign on to the Langevin and Harper letter
that supports family caregivers and a modest increase in
funding
for the Lifespan Respite Care Program.

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