



H.R. 6503 – MISSING ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE PATIENT ALERT PROGRAM REAUTHORIZATION OF 2008

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 6503 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Maxine Waters (D-CA) on July 15, 2008. The House Committee on the Judiciary agreed to the bill by voice vote on July 30, 2008.

H.R. 6503 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on September 15, 2008.

SUMMARY

H.R. 6503 reauthorizes the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert Program through fiscal year 2012. The bill authorizes the Attorney General, in coordination with the Secretary of Health and Human Services, to award competitive grants to organizations to assist in locating missing patients with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias, and to expand the program to include locating other missing elderly individuals. When awarding grants, preference is to be given to national nonprofit organizations that have a direct link to patients with Alzheimer's disease and related dementias.

H.R. 6503 authorizes \$5 million annually for fiscal years 2009-2015, for the purposes of carrying out the program.

BACKGROUND

According to the Federal Bureau of Investigation, over 50,000 missing adult cases were pending as of January 2008. These adults, along with other adults whose unknown whereabouts have gone unreported, may have gone missing for reasons such as abduction, foul play, mental or physical illness, or other reasons. Adults with dementia and related illnesses are especially vulnerable to become missing, with higher incidences among the elderly.

In response to the growing number of elderly adults in the U.S., Congress passed the Violent Crime Control and Law Enforcement Act of 1994 (P.L. 103-322), under which the establishment and funding for the Missing Alzheimer's Disease Patient Alert program was authorized, and subsequently reauthorized through fiscal year 2008.

COST

The Congressional Budget Office estimates that implementing H.R. 6503 would "cost \$17 million over the 2009-2013 period, with remaining amounts spent in subsequent years. Enacting H.R. 6503 would not affect direct spending or revenues."

[CBO cost estimate for H.R. 6503](#)

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