

.....  
(Original Signature of Member)

115TH CONGRESS  
1ST SESSION

# H. R.

---

To amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to authorize services to be provided to individuals with Alzheimers disease or a related disorder with neurological and organic brain dysfunction who have not attained 60 years of age.

---

## IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Miss RICE of New York introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on \_\_\_\_\_

---

# A BILL

To amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to authorize services to be provided to individuals with Alzheimers disease or a related disorder with neurological and organic brain dysfunction who have not attained 60 years of age.

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 “Younger-Onset Alz-  
5 heimer’s Disease Parity Act of 2017”.

1 **SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

2 Congress finds the following:

3 (1) When Alzheimer's disease occurs in some-  
4 one under the age of 65, it is known as younger-  
5 onset (or early-onset) Alzheimer's disease.

6 (2) About 5 percent of Americans with Alz-  
7 heimer's disease, or approximately 250,000 people,  
8 are living with younger-onset Alzheimer's disease.

9 (3) Individuals with younger-onset Alzheimer's  
10 disease primarily show symptoms of the disease be-  
11 ginning in their 50s, but some show signs of the dis-  
12 ease as early as their 30s or 40s.

13 (4) For most individuals with younger-onset  
14 Alzheimer's disease, the symptoms will closely mirror  
15 those of other forms of Alzheimer's disease.

16 (5) Those with younger-onset Alzheimer's dis-  
17 ease may have difficulty obtaining an accurate diag-  
18 nosis because health care providers don't generally  
19 look for Alzheimer's disease in younger people.  
20 Symptoms are often incorrectly attributed to stress,  
21 or there may be conflicting diagnoses from different  
22 health care professionals.

23 (6) Those with younger-onset Alzheimer's dis-  
24 ease may worry about work, retirement, and finan-  
25 cial issues. Their condition may lead them to volun-  
26 tarily quit their job, or their employers may fire

1       them before a diagnosis. This premature loss of  
2       work does not trigger the employment disability ac-  
3       commodations that a diagnosed individual would re-  
4       ceive.

5           (7) Those with younger-onset Alzheimer's dis-  
6       ease will suffer from higher levels of stigma because  
7       Alzheimer's disease is more often associated with  
8       older adults. This often adversely impacts family,  
9       personal, and professional relationships.

10          (8) Those with younger-onset Alzheimer's are  
11       often supporting young children who are living in  
12       the home. Many times these children also serve as  
13       caregivers.

14          (9) Those with younger-onset Alzheimer's dis-  
15       ease may have a working spouse who has to decide  
16       between continuing to work to support the household  
17       or leaving the working world to be the primary care-  
18       giver of their loved one living with Alzheimer's dis-  
19       ease.

20          (10) The Older Americans Act of 1965, enacted  
21       in 1965, authorizes the provision of essential serv-  
22       ices to Americans age 60 or over, with particular at-  
23       tention given to those individuals with low incomes  
24       or disabilities.

1           (11) Services provided under the Act include  
2 Alzheimer’s disease education, meal delivery, family  
3 caregiver support, and supportive services such as  
4 home care, adult day care, and transportation.

5           (12) These services are particularly helpful for  
6 those with a degenerative disease such as Alz-  
7 heimer’s in which sufferers ultimately require assist-  
8 ance with basic daily tasks.

9           (13) These services also provide vital assistance,  
10 support, and respite to family caregivers and help to  
11 maintain the independence of the individual living  
12 with younger-onset Alzheimer’s disease.

13           (14) The Older Americans Act 1965 uniquely  
14 authorizes services that can assist individuals with  
15 younger-onset Alzheimer’s disease and their families.

16 **SEC. 3. PARITY FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH YOUNGER-ONSET**  
17 **ALZHEIMER’S DISEASE.**

18           Section 102(40) of the Older Americans Act of 1965  
19 (42 U.S.C. 3002(40)) is amended by inserting before the  
20 period at the end the following:

21           “and includes an individual with Alzheimer’s disease  
22 or a related disorder with neurological and organic  
23 brain dysfunction who has not attained 60 years of  
24 age”.