Valuing the Invaluable:

Understanding the Contributions of Family Caregivers

In 2017, about 41 million family caregivers provided an estimated **34 billion hours of unpaid care** to an adult with limitations in daily activities. The estimated economic value of their unpaid contributions was about **\$470 billion in 2017**.

HOW MUCH IS \$470 BILLION?

Family caregiving estimated value

Medicaid spending

Out-of-pocket spending on health care Total long-term services & supports (LTSS) spending \$470B (\$1,450 for every person in the US)

\$366B

\$366B

\$154B

FAMILY CAREGIVERS AREN'T WHO YOU THINK THEY ARE...



Nearly 1 in 4 (24%) is a millennial.





FAMILY CAREGIVERS ARE...

on LTSS



Becoming more **diverse**.



Paying for care themselves. (\$7,000, on average, in 2016)



In most cases, juggling paid work while caregiving. (60% of family caregivers)



Carrying out increasingly complex tasks, like wound care and giving injections.

THE CARE GAP IS GROWING

Rising demand and **shrinking families** will increasingly strain family caregivers and those they care for.



In 2010, there were 7.1 potential family caregivers for every person 80+.





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By 2030, there may be only **4.1 potential** caregivers for every person 80+.

POLICY AND PRACTICE: CHANGE IS ACCELERATING



At the federal level:



- Congress enacted the RAISE Family Caregivers Act in 2018.
- Expanded Medicare reimbursement for several services benefit family caregivers.
- Supplemental benefits under Medicare
 Advantage can now include LTSS and supportive services.
- Managed LTSS programs have begun to recognize and support family caregivers.



At the state level:



- The Caregiver Advise, Record, Enable (CARE) Act has been enacted in 43 states and territories.
- There is growing momentum and support for **paid family leave** in the workplace.
- Some states are beginning to provide financial relief for family caregivers.
- Washington State established the first public long-term care insurance program in 2019.

MORE ACTION IS NEEDED TO HELP CAREGIVING FAMILIES



The aging of the population and its impact on families can no longer be viewed as a private, family-only issue.



America's public policies have not kept pace with changing demographic and social trends.



Investments in family caregiving supports today will **build a more caring** society for our families and ourselves tomorrow.



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