



Fact Sheet

U.S. Rep. Adam Putnam (Fla.-12)

Central Florida: Hillsborough, Osceola and Polk counties

Long-term Care Retirement and Security Act of 2008

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IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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The Problem:

People often times have not adequately provided for the care they will need as they enter old age. This is becoming a larger societal challenge as the Baby Boom generation reaches retirement age and as American life expectancy continues to increase. It can be a burden on the elderly and on their family and friends who are called upon for help.

- American life expectancy has increased by 10 years since 1950 to 77 years, according to The Centers for Disease Control.
- The average 65-year-old American is projected to live nearly another 19 years.
- According to the National Long-Term Care Study (NLTC), 60 percent of those over the age of 65 live alone.
- Two thirds of older people with disabilities rely solely on “informal” help, 75 percent of which was unpaid care from friends and family.
- Nearly 14 percent of the adults in Florida are caregivers.
- The average cost of private nursing home care is approximately \$75,000 per year.

The Solution:

Develop policies that: encourage people to prepare for the care they will require as they age and which would ease the financial burden on long-term care providers.

Toward this goal, Congressman Adam Putnam has introduced the Long-term Care Retirement and Security Act of 2008, HR 5559. This legislation would:

- Permit tax deductions for the cost of long-term care insurance policies. This will provide an appropriate incentive for people to take personal responsibility for their long-term care by purchasing these policies.
- Permit long-term care deductions to be made under flexible spending arrangements (FSAs) and cafeteria plans. This would encourage people to enroll in FSAs.
- Establish a reasonable tax credit for caregivers of those with long-term care needs to assist with expenses.
- Establish consumer protections based on the National Association of Insurance Commissioners recommendations for qualified long-term care policies.

Bill Status:

HR 5559 was introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives on March 6, 2008, and was referred to the Ways and Means Committee.

Congressman Putnam:

Since 2001, Putnam has represented Florida's 12th Congressional District, which includes most of Polk County and portions of Hillsborough and Osceola counties. He is chairman of the Republican Conference, his party's third highest leadership position.

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