



Government Affairs

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Testimony in Support of SB68 (The CARE Act)

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On Behalf of AARP

Senate Public Health & Welfare

February 1, 2017

Chairwoman Schmidt & Committee Members,

Thank you for the opportunity to appear before you today in support of SB68, the CARE Act. This bill is a simple attempt to bring a standard, minimum protocol to hospital admissions across the state when a patient chooses to include a caregiver. The bill essentially does 3 things: (1) it requires that the patient be asked if there is a designated caregiver and if so, the caregiver's name is recorded into the patients record, (2) the hospital is required to notify the caregiver if the patient is to be discharged, and (3) the hospital shall provide aftercare instructions to the caregiver.

The AARP has worked with the KHA in an attempt to find consensus on this legislation. It has been a productive effort, but the KHA still questions the necessity of the bill. Testimony today will support the need for this legislation. In the spirit of cooperation however, the bill, as introduced, does include language that the KHA found somewhat agreeable in negotiations last year. Upon passage of the legislation, the AARP, as they have done in other states, pledges to work with the KHA on a joint education campaign for consumers.

The bill is drafted broadly by design in an attempt to accomplish our goal, yet still put forth reasonable language. Versions of the CARE Act have passed in 35 states thus far, including the surrounding states of Colorado, Nebraska, and Oklahoma (MO is currently considering the measure). The vote total on the CARE Act in our surrounding states was 265 in favor and 6 opposed.

This bill benefits the patient, the caregiver, and the state. There is no cost to the state nor the hospital facilities. I ask for your support, and look forward to working with you on behalf of the growing number of volunteer caregivers across the state.

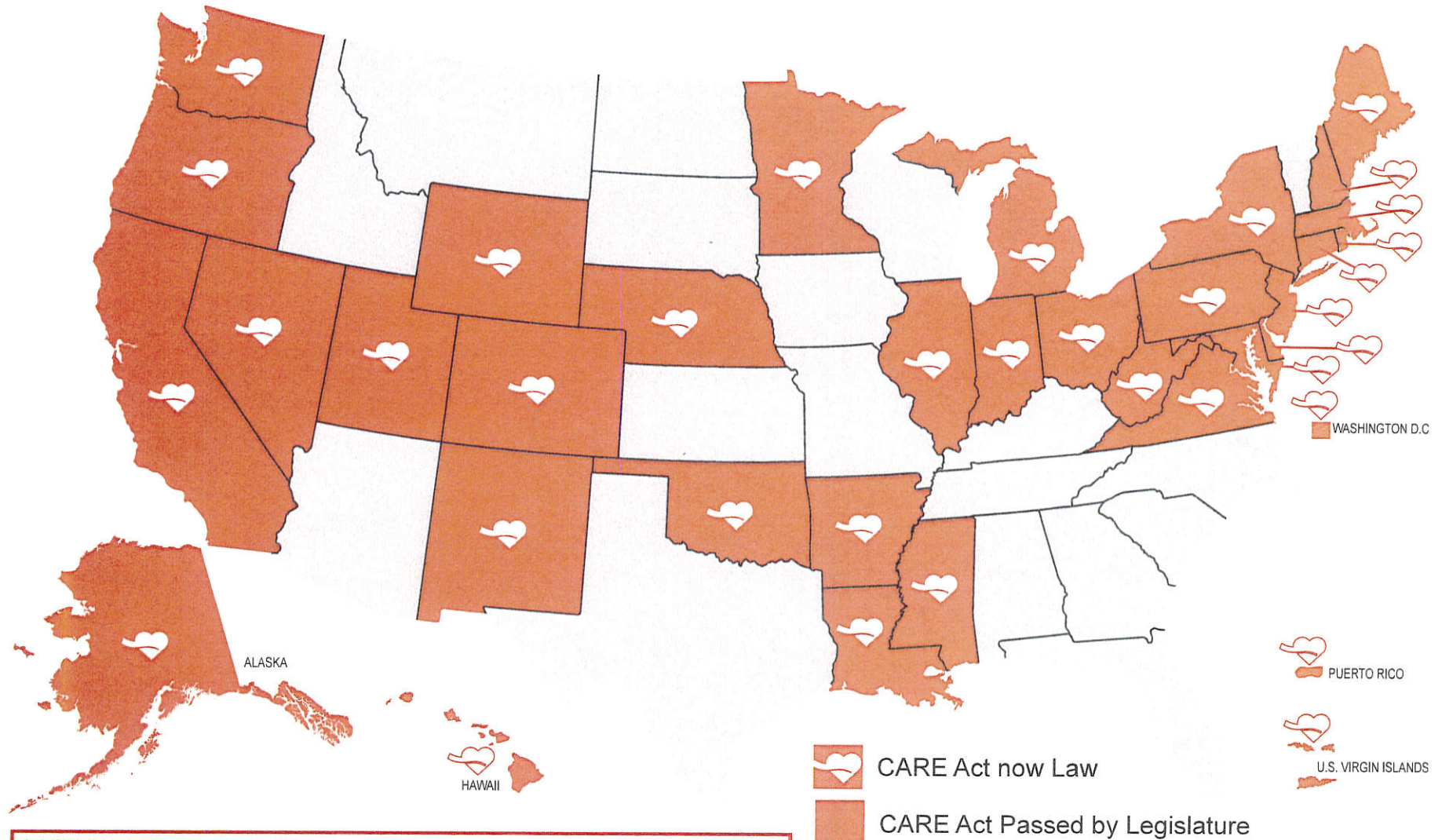
Senate Public Health and Welfare

Date 2.1.17

Attachment 2

The Caregiver Advise, Record, Enable (CARE) Act

The CARE Act is a commonsense solution that supports family caregivers when their loved ones go into the hospital, and provides for instruction on the medical tasks they will need to perform when their loved one returns home.



CARE Act goes into effect:

Oklahoma, 11/5/14; Colorado, 5/8/15; New Jersey, 5/12/15; West Virginia, 6/8/15; New Mexico, 6/17/15; Mississippi, 7/1/15; Virginia, 7/1/15; Arkansas, 7/22/15; Connecticut, 10/1/15; Nevada, 10/1/15; Maine, 10/15/15; Puerto Rico, 12/31/15; California, 1/1/16; Indiana, 1/1/16; New Hampshire, 1/1/16; Oregon, 1/1/16; Illinois, 1/27/2016; Utah, 2/10/16; Rhode Island, 3/1/16; Nebraska, 3/30/16; Virgin Islands, 3/30/16; New York, 4/23/16; Washington, 6/9/16; Wyoming, 7/1/16; Washington D.C., 7/6/16; Michigan, 7/12/16; Louisiana, 8/1/16; Maryland, 10/1/16; Alaska, 1/1/17; Delaware, 1/1/17; Minnesota, 1/1/17; Pennsylvania, 4/20/17; Hawaii, 7/1/17; Massachusetts, TBD; Ohio, TBD

**Updated on 12/31/2016



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