

#### 118TH CONGRESS 2D SESSION

# H. R. 8423

To amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to establish a LGBTQI rural outreach grant program, and for other purposes.

#### IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

May 16, 2024

Ms. Bonamici (for herself, Mr. Pocan, Ms. Davids of Kansas, Mr. Tonko, Ms. Schakowsky, Ms. Jackson Lee, Ms. Lee of California, Ms. Norton, Mr. Horsford, Ms. Garcia of Texas, Mr. Casten, and Ms. Jayapal) introduced the following bill; which was referred to the Committee on Education and the Workforce

## A BILL

To amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to establish a LGBTQI rural outreach grant program, and for other purposes.

- 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 "Elder Pride Act of
- 5 2024".

### 1 SEC. 2. RURAL OUTREACH GRANT PROGRAM.

2	Part A of title IV of the Older Americans Act of 1965
3	(42 U.S.C. 3031 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end
4	the following:
5	"SEC. 423. RURAL OUTREACH GRANT PROGRAM.
6	"(a) Definitions.—In this section:
7	"(1) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term 'eligible en-
8	tity' means an entity that submits an application to
9	the Assistant Secretary in accordance with sub-
10	section (c) and is—
11	"(A) a State;
12	"(B) an Indian Tribe or Tribal organiza-
13	tion; or
14	"(C) an agency, nonprofit organization, or
15	institution that—
16	"(i) focuses on serving the needs of
17	older individuals, LGBTQI individuals,
18	older LGBTQI individuals, or individuals
19	of another protected class; or
20	"(ii) focuses on providing sexual
21	health services to all older individuals, in-
22	cluding services for individuals with HIV;
23	and
24	"(D) may include an area agency on aging
25	for a rural area or a multipurpose senior cen-
26	ter.

1	"(2) LGBTQI.—The term 'LGBTQI', used
2	with respect to an individual, means a lesbian, gay,
3	bisexual, transgender, queer, or intersex individual.
4	"(3) PROTECTED CLASS.—The term 'protected
5	class' means a group of individuals sharing a com-
6	mon characteristic or identity who are legally pro-
7	tected against discrimination.
8	"(4) Rural area.—The term 'rural area'
9	means an area that is not designated by the United
10	States Census Bureau as an urbanized area or
11	urban cluster.
12	"(b) AUTHORITY FOR GRANTS.—The Assistant Sec-
13	retary may make grants to eligible entities to carry out
13 14	retary may make grants to eligible entities to carry out activities described in subsection (d) that are designed—
14	activities described in subsection (d) that are designed—
14 15	activities described in subsection (d) that are designed— "(1) to create a cooperative and lasting part-
14 15 16	activities described in subsection (d) that are designed—  "(1) to create a cooperative and lasting part- nership between LGBTQI older individuals, or older
14 15 16 17	activities described in subsection (d) that are designed—  "(1) to create a cooperative and lasting part- nership between LGBTQI older individuals, or older individuals of a protected class, residing in rural
14 15 16 17	activities described in subsection (d) that are designed—  "(1) to create a cooperative and lasting part- nership between LGBTQI older individuals, or older individuals of a protected class, residing in rural areas and the eligible entity receiving the grant;
114 115 116 117 118	activities described in subsection (d) that are designed—  "(1) to create a cooperative and lasting part- nership between LGBTQI older individuals, or older individuals of a protected class, residing in rural areas and the eligible entity receiving the grant;  "(2) to meet the needs of the individuals de-
114 115 116 117 118 119 220	activities described in subsection (d) that are designed—  "(1) to create a cooperative and lasting part- nership between LGBTQI older individuals, or older individuals of a protected class, residing in rural areas and the eligible entity receiving the grant;  "(2) to meet the needs of the individuals de- scribed in paragraph (1); and
14 15 16 17 18 19 20 21	activities described in subsection (d) that are designed—  "(1) to create a cooperative and lasting part- nership between LGBTQI older individuals, or older individuals of a protected class, residing in rural areas and the eligible entity receiving the grant;  "(2) to meet the needs of the individuals de- scribed in paragraph (1); and  "(3) to provide comprehensive sexual health

1	"(1) In general.—An eligible entity seeking a
2	grant under this section shall submit an application
3	to the Assistant Secretary at such time, in such
4	manner, and containing such information as the As-
5	sistant Secretary may reasonably require, including
6	the contents described in paragraph (2).
7	"(2) Contents.—An application for a grant
8	under this section shall contain—
9	"(A) a description of the proposed activi-
10	ties to be supported by the grant;
11	"(B) a description of the size and charac-
12	teristics of the population in a rural area to be
13	served by such proposed activities;
14	"(C) a description of the public and private
15	resources expected to be made available in con-
16	nection with such activities;
17	"(D) a demonstrated intent to partner
18	with local organizations in rural areas in car-
19	rying out such activities;
20	"(E) evidence in a form acceptable to the
21	Assistant Secretary that such activities will
22	meet urgent needs that are not met by available
23	public and private sources; and
24	"(F) such other information or certifi-
25	eations that the Assistant Secretary determines

1	necessary to achieve the purposes described in
2	paragraphs (1) through (3) of subsection (b).
3	"(d) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible entity may use
4	funds made available by a grant under this section to
5	carry out activities that include initiatives that—
6	"(1) engage in education and training relating
7	to community outreach to LGBTQI older individ-
8	uals, or older individuals of a protected class, resid-
9	ing in rural areas;
10	"(2) reduce isolation and improve access to care
11	for LGBTQI older individuals, or older individuals
12	of a protected class, residing in rural areas by build-
13	ing relationships between such individuals and the
14	local community;
15	"(3) foster relationships between local service
16	providers and LGBTQI older individuals, or older
17	individuals of a protected class, residing in rural
18	areas;
19	"(4) improve cultural competency with respect
20	to LGBTQI individuals, and older individuals of a
21	protected class, among organizations and personnel
22	providing services to older individuals residing in
23	rural areas;
24	"(5) expand the use of nondiscrimination poli-
25	cies that—

1	"(A) prohibit discrimination on the basis
2	of sexual orientation, gender identity, and sex
3	characteristics (including intersex traits); and
4	"(B) create community spaces that are in-
5	clusive to LGBTQI older individuals and older
6	individuals of a protected class; and
7	"(6) focus on providing sexual health services to
8	older individuals residing in rural areas, including
9	services for individuals with HIV.
10	"(e) Supplement Not Supplant.—As a condition
11	of receiving funds under this section, an eligible entity
12	shall use such funds received under this section only to
13	supplement the level of state or local funds that would,
14	in the absence of the receipt of funds under this section,
15	be made available for related LGBTQI services.
16	"(f) STANDARDS AND GUIDELINES.—The Assistant
17	Secretary shall establish standards and guidelines for ac-
18	tivities supported by grants under this section. Such
19	standards and guidelines shall permit an eligible entity re-
20	ceiving such grant to refine or adapt the standards and
21	guidelines for an individual project if the refinement or
22	adaptation is made necessary by a local circumstance.
23	"(g) Coordination With Local Entities.—
24	"(1) Cooperation.—An eligible entity that re-
25	ceives a grant under this section shall, in carrying

- 1 out activities supported by the grant, agree to co-2 operate and coordinate with— "(A) the agencies of the relevant State and 3 4 local governments responsible for providing services to LGBTQI older individuals, or older 6 individuals of a protected class, in the area 7 served by such activities; and "(B) other public and private organizations 8 9 and agencies providing services to LGBTQI
- older individuals, or older individuals of a protected class, in such area.

  "(2) PRIORITIZATION.—An eligible entity receiving a grant under this section shall prioritize cooperating and coordinating with public and private
- 16 ulations of older individuals with the greatest social

organizations and agencies that primarily serve pop-

- 18 "(h) Reports.—Not later than 1 year after the ef-
- 19 fective date of this section, and annually thereafter, the
- 20 Assistant Secretary shall submit to the Congress and
- 21 make available to the public a report describing the activi-
- 22 ties carried out under this section during the then pre-
- 23 ceding 2-year period.

need.

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- 24 "(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is
- 25 to be authorized for rural outreach grant activities under

- $1 \;$  section 423, \$5,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2025 and
- 2 2029.".

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