

Survey: 7-in-8 Older Americans Support the SAFE Act (H.R. 1171)

Older Voters Strongly Support Enhanced Medicare Risk Assessment and Prevention Measures to Reduce Accidental Falls

According to a Morning Consult survey, older registered voters are deeply concerned about accidental falls and the injuries, pain, and expenses that result from them. As a result, the individuals surveyed highly value expanded access to physical and occupational therapy services that help prevent falls and preserve quality of life and independence.

Older voters expressed strong support for legislation – *The Stopping Addiction and Falls for the Elderly (SAFE) Act (H.R. 1171)* – to enable physicians to refer Medicare beneficiaries who have fallen within the past year to comprehensive falls risk assessment and prevention services delivered by physical and occupational therapists without additional out-of-pocket cost.

**SAFE
ACT**

Older Americans Strongly Support the SAFE Act (H.R. 1171)

87% support for SAFE Act to help prevent falls (**57% strongly support**). Majority support cuts across all demographic and ideological groups, including **Democrats (90% support)** and **Republicans (81%)**.

69% are more likely to vote for a candidate that supports the SAFE Act.

75% say they would be more supportive of the Medicare program if it included the falls risk assessment and prevention services provided by the SAFE Act.



Older Americans Recognize Skilled Therapy's Role in Reducing Falls

71% are concerned about accidental falls (~30% seriously concerned).

42% have had personal experience with a fall in their household.

31% have personally suffered an accidental fall. Of these individuals:

54% needed medical care,
50% required a visit to the ER,
20% called an ambulance,

16% needed long-term hospitalization, and
18% required surgery



Older Americans Value Physical and Occupational Therapy

89% have a favorable view of physical and occupational therapists.

74% view therapists as very important to preventing falls.



Older Voters Want Congress to Protect Medicare Funding for Therapy

85% support stable funding for physical and occupational therapy.

90% think it is vital for Congress to properly fund physical and occupational therapy.

89% are concerned that any Medicare cuts will lead to a reduction in access to fall prevention services that may jeopardize their independence.