



March 14, 2025

The Honorable Carol Miller
United States House of Representatives
465 Cannon House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Melanie Stansbury
United State House of Representatives
1421 Longworth House Office Building
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Miller and Stansbury:

AARP, which advocates for the more than 100 million Americans age 50 and over, is pleased to support *Stopping Addiction and Falls for the Elderly (SAFE) Act (H.R. 1171)*. Your bipartisan bill would play an important role in preventing falls among our nation's older adults, helping them stay safe, healthy, and independent.

According to [the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention](#) (CDC), falls are the leading cause of injury for adults ages 65 and over. Each year, [more than 14 million older adults](#) in the United States report falling, resulting in an estimated nine million injuries. Falls among older adults account for [about three million emergency department visits and about one million fall-related hospitalizations annually](#). While falls among older adults are common, costly, and dangerous, they are also preventable.

The SAFE Act would enable physicians to refer at-risk Medicare beneficiaries to a physical or occupational therapist for an initial falls risk assessment and prevention visit without cost sharing. Removing this financial barrier would help identify and address fall risks, prevent falls, and reduce the expenses tied to fall-related treatments.

Thank you for your efforts to help prevent falls and protect America's older adults. If you have any additional questions, feel free to contact me or have your staff contact Lauren Ryan on our Government Affairs team at lryan@aarp.org.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Bill Sweeney".

Bill Sweeney
Senior Vice President
Government Affairs