

The Stopping Addiction and Falls for the Elderly (SAFE) Act

Addressing a Costly National Crisis with Proven Interventions

› The SAFE Act

The SAFE Act is targeted to prevent falls and opioid reliance among older Americans:

- ▶ **It focuses on beneficiaries who have fallen within a year of their Medicare wellness visit and are at high risk of another fall,**
- ▶ **It enables these beneficiaries to receive falls risk assessment and prevention by physical and occupational therapists at no cost, and**
- ▶ **It is projected to save \$162M over 10 years.**

› The Crisis of Falls

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), falls among older American adults (age 65 and over):

- ▶ **Occur more than once every second,**
- ▶ **Are now the #1 cause of injury and injury-related death among older Americans,**
- ▶ **Cause 12,000,000 injuries every year, and**
- ▶ **Cost our nation \$50 billion annually.**

› Action is Needed

Today, millions of Medicare beneficiaries do not receive a full falls risk assessment, which can identify and address their risk of falling:

- ▶ **Medicare's annual wellness visits provide limited time for falls risk assessment, and**
- ▶ **Any assessment that is conducted does not typically involve falls specialists.**
- ▶ **As a result, many Medicare beneficiaries do not receive falls intervention they need.**

› What Seniors Think

According to a 2024 Morning Consult survey, older voters favor Congressional action to improve falls risk assessment and prevention:

- ▶ **71% of all surveyed seniors are concerned about the risk of accidental falls, and**
- ▶ **31% of respondents already suffered a fall.**
- ▶ **As a result, 87% of older voters – including 90% of Democrats and 81% of Republicans – are in favor of The SAFE Act.**

The SAFE Act: Protecting Older Americans from the Crisis of Falls

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