

FACTSHEET

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AADAPT Act

Primary care providers need additional training on making a dementia diagnosis and providing quality care.

- Nearly 7 million Americans are living with Alzheimer's — a population projected to double to nearly 14 million in 2060.
- A timely diagnosis and quality care for individuals with dementia leads to better health outcomes. But, it requires properly trained health professionals.
- Although 85% of Alzheimer's diagnoses are initially made by primary care providers (PCPs), 40% of PCPs say they are never or only sometimes comfortable making a diagnosis.
- Even when a diagnosis is made, appropriate care may not be available, as two-thirds of PCPs say they learned little to nothing on dementia care in medical school.

Project ECHO[®] is an existing and tested model to provide virtual continuing education to health care providers.

- Project ECHO (Extension for Community Healthcare Outcomes) was first developed at the University of New Mexico Health Sciences Center.
- More than five million providers have participated in at least one program globally, covering 74 different conditions and diseases.
- Evaluations of Project ECHO have shown it increases PCP skills, knowledge, and confidence in managing common but complex diseases.

The Alzheimer's and Dementia Care ECHO Program for clinicians is focused on improving the accuracy and timeliness of diagnoses and enhancing the quality of dementia care.

- The free six-month virtual education program for PCPs seeks to increase their ability to diagnose and care for individuals with dementia. It is taught by a multidisciplinary expert team.
- PCP participants join biweekly calls for instruction on particular aspects of dementia care and for case-based discussions with other participants.
- Dementia care training topics include routine and advanced care planning, referrals and specialty testing, managing comorbidities, and navigating behavioral and psychological symptoms.

The Accelerating Access to Dementia and Alzheimer's Provider Training (AADAPT) Act (S. 4276/H.R. 7688) would provide grants to dementia ECHO programs specifically to address knowledge gaps among PCPs.

- This funding would provide virtual Alzheimer's and dementia education and training to more PCPs to better understand detection, diagnosis, care, and treatment.
- It would also allow the program to expand its reach in rural and underserved communities.
- The AADAPT Act would authorize \$1 million annually for five years.