

U.S. SENATOR BOB CASEY



CHAIRMAN Special Committee on Aging

The PACE Anytime Act

U.S. Senators Bob Casey and Mike Braun

What is PACE?

Roughly 14 million Americans have a serious health problem that requires long-term care, such as assistance with bathing, transportation, and meal preparation. Over half of the individuals that require this care are ages 65 and up, yet few options exist to support seniors and people with disabilities as they age in their homes and communities. The Program of All-Inclusive Care for the Elderly (PACE) is an alternative model of care to traditional home-based care that can help people receive care in the community.

The PACE program was established in 1997 as a permanent Medicare program that states have the option to provide as a Medicaid state plan option. PACE provides comprehensive care for low-income seniors and people with disabilities ages 55 and up by integrating Medicare coverage and Medicaid long-term care. PACE's interdisciplinary approach and wrap-around care enables over 68,000 individuals across 32 States and the District of Columbia to remain in their homes, which is overwhelmingly where they prefer to live. PACE programs provide health care and supportive services, like adult day care, transportation, and medication management, for some of the most medically complex individuals. Enrollment in a PACE program has been shown to result in fewer hospitalizations and visits to the emergency room as well as reduced caregiver burden for family members.

PACE is financed through capitation payments, allowing providers to deliver all needed services beyond often limited Medicare and Medicaid fee-for-service reimbursable care. The program never requires a co-pay or deductible, eliminating coverage gaps and ensuring that older Americans have access to the care, services, and medications they need.

Why do we need the PACE Anytime Act?

The PACE program's comprehensive care delivered by interdisciplinary teams enables beneficiaries to receive adequate and high-quality care while remaining in their communities.

Currently, older adults can only enroll in a PACE program on the first of every month, which is a significant barrier for older adults whose needs are constantly changing. Other comparable providers, including hospice care, home care, and skilled nursing facilities (SNFs), are not required to wait for the first of the month to enroll patients who need immediate care. In addition to delaying care, PACE enrollment restraints often force PACE-eligible individuals to seek care in SNFs and other modalities that are already critically overburdened.

What would the PACE Anytime Act do?

The PACE Anytime Act would allow eligible individuals to enroll in PACE at any time during a month. The bill also provides the ability to prorate capitation payments to account for varying PACE enrollment dates.