The Improving Care for Vulnerable Older Citizens through Workforce Advancement Act

"This legislation will help improve the care offered by direct care workers and lower care costs for both older Americans and the health care industry.”
REP. MATT CARTWRIGHT (D-PA)

INTRODUCED
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SPONSOR
Rep. Matt Cartwright (D-PA)

WHAT IT DOES
Establishes demonstration projects that test models of care involving direct care workers in advanced roles—thereby improving care for older adults and reducing health care costs. These roles would notably support people with complex conditions such as Alzheimer’s Disease and related dementias, congestive heart failure, diabetes, and other chronic disease.

WHY THIS MATTERS
Advanced roles that allow direct care workers to handle new responsibilities—assisting with clinical observation and reporting, educating clients on health promotion and medication adherence, and supporting the care team—can improve care and reduce costs.

IN PRACTICE
In 2014 and 2015, PHI piloted an advanced role for home care workers in New York City, which was designed to maximize the value of home care workers in care transitions, while reducing emergency room usage and preventing rehospitalizations. While additional evaluation is needed, early outcomes show client improvements in preventable hospitalizations, ER visits, and medication adherence. The project also helped reduce family caregiver strain.