



May 5, 2025

The Honorable Nikki Budzinski  
U.S. House of Representatives  
1717 Longworth House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Lois Frankel  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2305 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jennifer Kiggans  
U.S. House of Representatives  
152 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Jack Bergman  
U.S. House of Representatives  
566 Cannon House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

The Honorable Gus Bilirakis  
U.S. House of Representatives  
2306 Rayburn House Office Building  
Washington, DC 20515

Dear Representatives Budzinski, Frankel, Kiggans, Bergman, and Bilirakis:

AARP, which advocates for the more than 100 million Americans age 50 and over, is pleased to support the Supporting Access to Falls Education and prevention and Strengthening Training Efforts and Promoting Safety initiatives (SAFE STEPS) for Veterans Act of 2025. Your bipartisan bill would help prevent dangerous falls among our nation's veterans by improving home safety and supporting the changes they need to age with dignity and independence.

According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, [falls](#) are the leading cause of injury and injury-related deaths for adults ages 65 and over. While falls among older adults are common and costly, they are also preventable.

The SAFE STEPS for Veterans Act would help prevent falls among veterans by establishing an Office of Falls Prevention in the Department of Veterans Affairs (VA) with specific responsibilities, establishing a national public education campaign, developing research on evidenced-based falls prevention programs for veterans, helping to ensure safe patient handling and mobility policies, and providing falls risk assessment and fall prevention services for certain veterans. The bill also considers a pilot program to provide home improvements and structural alterations to prevent falls for all veterans eligible for those services under laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

Thank you for your efforts to help prevent falls and protect our nation's veterans. If you have any additional questions, feel free to contact me or have your staff contact Rhonda Richards on our Government Affairs team at [rrichards@aarps.org](mailto:rrichards@aarps.org).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in purple ink that reads "Bill Sweeney". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke at the end.

Bill Sweeney  
Senior Vice President  
Government Affairs