



## S. 845 – Safety of Seniors Act of 2008

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### FLOOR SITUATION

S. 845 is being considered on the floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Senator Michael Enzi (R-WY) on March 12, 2007. The bill passed the Senate by unanimous consent on August 1, 2007. The bill was referred to the House Committee on Energy and Commerce on August 2, 2007, but was never considered.

S. 845 is expected to be considered on the floor of the House on April 8, 2008.

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### SUMMARY

S. 845 allows the Secretary of Health and Human Services to: 1) oversee and support a national education campaign directed towards older adults (aged 65 years and over), their families, and health care providers focused on reducing the incidence of falls among older adults, to be carried out by an experienced nonprofit organization; and 2) award grants, cooperative agreements, and contracts to qualified organizations and institutions to plan and carry out local educational campaigns focusing on reducing the incidence of falls among older adults.

The bill allows the Secretary to conduct and support research in the prevention of falls among older adults, and may award grants to organizations carrying out multistate demonstration projects about strategies which help prevent falls.

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### BACKGROUND

Every year in the U.S., over 1.6 million adults are seen in emergency departments for injuries related to falling. Falls are the leading cause of fractures, trauma-related hospitalization, loss of independence, and injury related deaths among older adults. According to the National Institute of Health (NIH), one third of older adults experience a fall every year. The likelihood of falling increases with age for adults over 65.

[NIH report on falls among older adults](#)

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### COST

According to the Congressional Budget Office, "implementing S. 845 would cost \$22 million in 2008 and \$172 million over the 2008-2012 period."

[CBO estimate for S. 845](#)

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### STAFF CONTACT

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