



1 August 2019

As the 2020 election draws nearer, it is heartening to hear the many discussions that are taking place on a whole host of policy issues. One extremely important issue that has not yet been brought up, however, affects over 40 million Americans.

Family caregivers are the backbone of our society and a growing population in our country, yet the loving support these Americans provide often comes at the expense of their family finances, their mental health, and their physical well-being.

For over 35 years, the Rosalynn Carter Institute for Caregiving has been working to support the people in our lives and communities who selflessly take care of loved ones who are aging, chronically ill, or wounded veterans. Sadly, caregivers are an afterthought in our country, even in their own eyes: most admit to delaying their own health needs to prioritize those of their patient.

Considering the growing number of Americans who currently are or soon will be tending to a loved one, I appeal to you to advocate for their health and well-being, their needs and challenges. These unsung heroes require dedicated policy and programming to ensure that they remain healthy, committed, and productive.

I ask you to request that a question during one of the debates be on the topic of caregivers. I also ask you to outline the concrete steps you will take as president to support America's family caregivers and to pledge to advocate on their behalf in any capacity.

If you would like to learn more about this issue, the institute's executive director, Dr. Jennifer Olsen, would be happy to brief you.

Caregivers are a special group of people, and they deserve every consideration and support we can give them. I hope you will join me in advocating on their behalf.

Sincerely,

*“There are only four kinds of people in the world:  
those who have been caregivers, those who are currently caregivers,  
those who will be caregivers, and those who will need caregivers.” — Rosalynn Carter*