

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 89

By Ramsey

A RESOLUTION to give recognition to and show support for persons who are caregivers for older citizens.

WHEREAS, the population of the State of Tennessee that is eighty-five years of age or older is projected to reach 421,000 in the year 2050; and

WHEREAS, nationally, seventy percent of people with Alzheimer's disease or a related disorder live at home and need assistance with activities of daily living; and

WHEREAS, almost three-fourths of older people living in the community who receive personal assistance rely exclusively on unpaid caregivers for help and aid; and

WHEREAS, almost all older adults who need assistance with activities of daily living want to remain in their homes and communities; and

WHEREAS, providing services and supports to older adults in their homes and communities is generally much less expensive than nursing home care; and

WHEREAS, older adults who receive cost-effective services in their homes are much less likely to need public assistance; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 1.65 million adults in the State provide care to adult relatives or friends, which equates to an estimated 1.08 billion hours per year and an estimated value of eleven billion dollars each year; and

WHEREAS, to successfully address the surging population of older adults who have significant needs for long-term services and supports, the State must develop methods to both encourage and support families to support their aging relatives and develop ways to recruit and retain a qualified, responsive in-home care workforce; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE

CONCURRING, that we recognize, applaud, and support the dedicated work of family caregivers statewide and will continue to seek additional ways to support these individuals through information, education, training, and relief care.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we deem care giving for older adults as a vital and needed profession today and in the future.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we strongly encourage additional innovative and creative means to support family caregivers to continue to provide needed in-home support for older adults.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we will review State policies and support current State programs that address the needs of older adults and their caregivers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we encourage departments of State government to continue to provide additional information and education on supporting older adults in their homes through both family caregivers and paid professional caregivers.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.