

and

Seikel of the House

AS INTRODUCED

A Concurrent Resolution commending the Oklahoma Task Force on Minority Aging; accepting their principles for the elderly of Oklahoma; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, the State of Oklahoma Minority Task Force was established in 1981 by the Department of Human Services Aging Services Division as a creative approach to providing improved services to the state's minority elderly. The Task Force, under the leadership of the Aging Division Special Unit on Aging, brought together a multi-talented, multi-ethnic group of service providers and recipients dedicated to identifying and overcoming cultural barriers to effective service delivery to the elderly; and

WHEREAS, early activities of the Task Force focused on gathering and compiling information, setting goals and objectives, and then developing strategies to meet these goals. From serving as a resource to Area Agencies and local projects funded through the Older Americans Act, the Task Force began to take a more active role. Workshops and training sessions were organized; and in 1986, the first two-day statewide Minority Outreach, Information and Referral Conference was held. The Conference has grown in scope and size. The Ninth Annual Conference, held in 1994, was publicized in all fifty states and attracted registrants from other states. As a result of this nationwide recognition, the Task Force has become a model for the creation of similar programs in other states; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force continues to grow, providing training and technical assistance in addition to the annual conference. In 1994, the Task Force sponsored a sanctioned Minority White House Conference on Aging in preparation for the 1995 National White House Conference on Aging. The Task Force has renewed its commitment to the minority elderly in Oklahoma. In an effort to meet the challenges of a diverse culture in the next century, the Task Force voted last year to change its name to the Oklahoma Task Force on Minority Aging; and

WHEREAS, 1999 has been proclaimed as the International Year of Older Persons by the United Nations General Assembly. The Oklahoma Task Force on Minority Aging has adopted and is promoting the five principles set forth by the United Nation's General Assembly. The five principles are independence (being able to reside at home as long as possible), participation (opportunities for older persons to share their knowledge and skills with younger generations), care (benefit from family and community and protection in accordance with each society's system of cultural values), self-fulfillment (having access to the educational, cultural, spiritual, and recreational resources of society), and dignity (being treated fairly, regardless of age, gender, racial or ethnic background, disability, or other status); and

WHEREAS, understanding between cultures and between men and women will become even more important as the United States population ages. By the year 2050, one quarter of the elderly will be members of minority groups. By the age of 85 women (who usually live longer than men) outnumber the male population by a five-to-two margin.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 47TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING THEREIN:

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature commends the Oklahoma Task Force on Minority Aging for its dedication and hard work to develop public awareness of the needs of older minority members and the services available to them.

THAT the Oklahoma State Legislature joins with the Oklahoma Task Force on Minority Aging in accepting the five principles of independence, participation, care, self-fulfillment and dignity for all the elderly in the State of Oklahoma.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the Oklahoma Task Force on Minority Aging.

47-1-1372

THC

6/12/2015 1:58:09 AM