

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 1st Session of the 54th Legislature (2013)

3 HOUSE

4 RESOLUTION 1008

By: Wright and Dank

7 AS INTRODUCED

8 A Resolution supporting the dedicated work of family
9 caregivers; recognizing caregiving for older adults
10 is a vital and needed profession; encouraging the
11 creation of a special unit within the Aging Services
12 Division of the Department of Human Services to focus
13 on family and paid caregivers; encouraging additional
14 means to support family caregivers; encouraging the
15 review of state policies and state programs that
16 address the needs of older adults and caregivers;
17 directing the Aging Services Division of the
18 Department of Human Services to provide additional
19 information and education on supporting older adults
20 in their homes; and directing distribution.

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17 WHEREAS, the population of the state that is 85 years of age or
18 older is projected to reach 131,000 in 2032; and

19 WHEREAS, nationally 70% of people with Alzheimer's disease or a
20 related disorder live at home and need assistance with activities of
21 daily living; and

22 WHEREAS, almost three-fourths of older people living in the
23 community who received personal assistance relied exclusively on
24 unpaid caregivers for help; and

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

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

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

9 WHEREAS, an estimated 596,000 adults in the state provide care
10 to adult relatives or friends, which equates to an estimated 570
11 million hours a year and an estimated value of 6 billion dollars
12 each year; and

13 WHEREAS, to successfully address the surging population of older
14 adults who have significant needs for long-term services and
15 supports, the state must develop methods to both encourage and
16 support families to support their aging relatives and develop ways
17 to recruit and retain a qualified, responsive in-home care
18 workforce.

19 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
20 OF THE 1ST SESSION OF THE 54TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

21 THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives supports the
22 dedicated work of family caregivers statewide and will continue to
23 seek additional ways to support these individuals through
24 information, education, training and relief care.

1 THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives recognizes caregiving
2 for older adults as a vital and needed profession today and in the
3 future.

4 THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives encourages the
5 creation of a special unit within the Aging Services Division of the
6 Department of Human Services that focuses on recruiting, retaining
7 and supporting family and paid caregivers.

8 THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives strongly encourages
9 additional innovative and creative means to support family
10 caregivers to continue to provide needed in-home support for older
11 adults.

12 THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives encourages the review
13 of state policies and supports current state programs that address
14 the needs of older adults and their caregivers.

15 THAT the Oklahoma House of Representatives directs the Aging
16 Services Division of the Department of Human Services to continue to
17 provide additional information and education on supporting older
18 adults in their homes through both family caregivers and paid
19 professional caregivers.

20 THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Marjorie Lyons,
21 State President of AARP Oklahoma.

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23 54-1-7485 AM 03/05/13

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