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HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Many Illinois residents who are at risk of unnecessary or premature institutionalization receive in-home personal care services such as help with bathing, dressing, and personal hygiene; help with mobility, including help in getting to and from the bathroom; housekeeping and laundry; meal preparation; help in dealing with memory loss or confusion; and assistance with medications; these services enable them to remain in their homes instead of being placed in an institution; and

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WHEREAS, There are many times when care, including in-home personal care, is most effective and satisfying to the consumer if it is provided by the consumer's spouse; and

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WHEREAS, Historically, federal funding was available to reimburse spouses for in-home personal care services they provided; in 1989, federal law was changed to prohibit the use of federal moneys to reimburse spouses for providing that care, and states accordingly changed their rules to contain a similar prohibition; two years ago, federal law was changed back to allow spousal reimbursement, but many states, including Illinois, have not changed their rules accordingly; and

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WHEREAS, Frustrated spouses trying to care for their ailing

1 partners while holding down a regular job should be allowed  
2 compensation for providing basic care such as bathing, meal  
3 preparation, and household chores; and

4 WHEREAS, It costs less money to care for someone in their  
5 home than to care for them in a facility; studies show that  
6 people respond better to treatment in their own homes; and with  
7 the State facing a critical shortage in health-care workers,  
8 paying spouses to provide in-home personal care services is a  
9 good way to alleviate the strain on the health care system;  
10 therefore, be it

11 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
12 NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE  
13 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that we urge the Department of Human  
14 Services to consult with legislators, recipients of in-home  
15 personal care services, and caregivers in determining whether  
16 to change the Department's rules to allow payment to spouses  
17 for providing those services; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
19 delivered to the Governor and to the Secretary of Human  
20 Services.