



HR0572

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, The AARP Public Policy Institute reports there are
3 an estimated 61.6 million family caregivers of older adults
4 nationwide, including 1,660,000 in Illinois; and

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WHEREAS, Caregivers provide 80% of long-term care, valued
6 at \$450 billion; and

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WHEREAS, The Family and Work Institute reports 42% of U.S.
8 workers in the last 5 years have had elder care
9 responsibilities and 49% expect to care for older family
10 members or friends in the next 5 years; and

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WHEREAS, The MetLife Mature Market Institute reports 25% of
12 adult children, an estimated 836,021 adults ages 45-64 in
13 Illinois, provide care for a parent; and

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WHEREAS, The total estimated aggregate lost wages,
15 pension, and Social Security benefits of caregivers of parents
16 is nearly \$3 trillion; and

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WHEREAS, Caregiving sons and daughters provide comparable
18 care in many respects, but daughters are more likely to provide
19 basic care and sons are more likely to provide financial
20 assistance; and

1 WHEREAS, The total cost impact of caregiving on the
2 individual female caregiver in terms of lost wages, Social
3 Security benefits, and pensions equals \$324,044; and

4 WHEREAS, The total cost impact of caregiving on the
5 individual male caregiver in terms of lost wages, Social
6 Security benefits, and pensions equals \$283,716; and

7 WHEREAS, For men and women ages 50 and over, the total
8 individual amount of lost wages, Social Security benefits, and
9 pensions because of caregiving responsibilities averages
10 \$303,880; and

11 WHEREAS, Caregivers are twice as likely to report fair or
12 poor health; up to 70% of caregivers of older adults have
13 clinical depression; and one quarter to one-half meet major
14 depression criteria; and

15 WHEREAS, Twenty-seven percent of caregivers report a
16 moderate to high degree of financial hardship due to
17 caregiving; and

18 WHEREAS, U.S. businesses lose an estimated \$33.6 billion a
19 year in productivity from employees who are caregivers full
20 time, at an average of \$2,110 per person; and

1 WHEREAS, Nearly 5 million children nationwide live in
2 grandparent-headed households; and

3 WHEREAS, The 2010 U.S. Census reports 318,042 Illinois
4 children under age 18 living in homes where the householders
5 are grandparents or other relatives; of these, 236,424 live
6 with grandparents who are the householders; and

7 WHEREAS, In Illinois, 109,939 children live in homes where
8 grandparents are responsible for them; and of these children,
9 35,583 have no parents present in the home; and

10 WHEREAS, In Illinois, 99,783 grandparents are householders
11 responsible for grandchildren living with them; of these, 20%
12 live in poverty (at or below 100% of the federal poverty
13 level); and

14 WHEREAS, Grandparents and other relatives raising children
15 face legal, financial, and emotional challenges, as well as
16 difficulty navigating public benefits and school systems; and

17 WHEREAS, The year 2011 marks the 10th anniversary of the
18 National Family Caregivers Support Program, authorized and
19 funded under the federal Older Americans Act; and

1 WHEREAS, Since 2001, the Illinois Aging Network, which
2 includes the Illinois Department on Aging, 13 Area Agencies on
3 Aging, and community-based agencies, have provided vital
4 services for caregivers, including: information and
5 assistance, counseling, support groups, legal assistance,
6 training and education, and respite services for families
7 caring for older adults and grandparents and other relatives
8 raising children; and

9 WHEREAS, Since the economic downturn began in late 2007,
10 Area Agencies on Aging have received a 67% increase in requests
11 for caregiver support services; therefore, be it

12 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE
13 NINETY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, that
14 we honor Illinoisans caring for older adults who are no longer
15 able to care for themselves, and grandparents and other
16 relatives raising children, especially during National Family
17 Caregivers Month, November of 2011; and be it further

18 RESOLVED, That we recognize Illinois caregivers for
19 demonstrating extraordinary love, dedication, and courage in
20 fostering the development of children and helping older adults
21 and persons with disabilities to maintain their dignity and
22 autonomy, and maximize their abilities at home and in long-term
23 care facilities; and be it further

1 RESOLVED, That we commend the Illinois Aging Network,
2 including the Illinois Department on Aging, the 13 Area
3 Agencies on Aging, and community-based agencies for providing
4 essential services to ensure that caregivers are able to
5 continue providing care.