

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 3

BY HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1
2 STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND ACKNOWLEDGING THE SERIOUSNESS OF THE
3 INCREASING DEMANDS ON UNPAID FRIEND AND FAMILY CAREGIVERS, THE GROWING
4 NUMBER OF FAMILY MEMBERS NEEDING CARE, THE COMPLEXITY OF CARE AND THE
5 LACK OF SUPPORT AND TRAINING FOR CAREGIVERS, AND SUPPORTING THE RECOM-
6 MENDATIONS IN THE IDAHO LIFESPAN FAMILY CAREGIVER ACTION PLAN DEVELOPED
7 BY THE IDAHO CAREGIVER ALLIANCE.

8 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Idaho:

9 WHEREAS, annually more than 300,000 adults in Idaho, 200,000 at any
10 given time, provide care to family members, relatives or friends, which
11 equates to an estimated value of \$2 billion per year; and

12 WHEREAS, an estimated 53,000 Idaho children have a special health care
13 need, and nearly 19,000 have a serious emotional disorder; and

14 WHEREAS, the population of the state that is 65 years of age and older is
15 the fastest growing population in the state, projected to reach 370,000 in
16 2032; and

17 WHEREAS, an estimated 77,000 unpaid family caregivers are caring for
18 approximately 22,000 Idahoans with Alzheimer's disease or a related disor-
19 der; and

20 WHEREAS, the costs of family caregiving include lost income to the care-
21 giver and lost productivity to the caregiver's employer; and

22 WHEREAS, family caregivers are an essential part of Idaho's health care
23 system, providing uncompensated support and care to ill or disabled family
24 members or loved ones; and

25 WHEREAS, family caregivers increasingly manage complex medical and/or
26 psychological conditions without the support and training they need; and

27 WHEREAS, caregiving takes its toll on caregiver health and well-being
28 and affects the entire family; and

29 WHEREAS, providing services and support to Idahoans in their homes and
30 communities is generally less expensive than institutional care; and

31 WHEREAS, in 2010, there were six working-age adults for every older
32 adult, but by 2020 that ratio will drop to three working-age adults for every
33 older adult; and

34 WHEREAS, the Idaho Caregiver Alliance has joined with stakeholders
35 across the state to develop and author Idaho's Lifespan Family Caregiver
36 Action Plan, which provides recommendations for improving support for care-
37 givers across the lifespan.

38 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the First Regular Ses-
39 sion of the Sixty-fourth Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and
40 the Senate concurring therein, that we recognize the unmet needs and signif-
41 icant contributions of Idaho's family caregivers across the lifespan; and

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we understand the pressures created by the
2 expanding number of people needing care in proportion to the diminishing
3 number of family caregivers; and

4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we acknowledge the work of the Idaho Care-
5 giver Alliance in its comprehensive review of caregiver issues; and

6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we support the Idaho Lifespan Family Care-
7 giver Action Plan and its recommendations: to increase public awareness
8 about family caregiving and its costs and benefits; to provide training for
9 caregivers; to improve caregiver support, including respite resources; to
10 integrate family caregivers into health care system transformations; and to
11 develop methods for ongoing data collection and reporting to monitor changes
12 and assure responsible use of public and private resources.