

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 24

BY HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1 STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND ENDORSING EFFORTS BY THE IDAHO CARE-  
2 GIVER ALLIANCE TO CREATE A TASK FORCE TO EXPLORE INNOVATIVE MEANS TO  
3 SUPPORT UNCOMPENSATED FAMILY CAREGIVERS IN IDAHO.  
4

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

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

9 WHEREAS, family caregivers are valued community members who are the  
10 backbone of Idaho's long-term care system; and

11 WHEREAS, the State Healthcare Innovation Plan is focused on redesign-  
12 ing Idaho's health care delivery system to evolve from a fee-for-service,  
13 volume-based system to a value-based system of care based on improved health  
14 outcomes; and

15 WHEREAS, uncompensated family caregivers in Idaho are an essential part  
16 of the medical neighborhood, the medical neighborhood being the array of  
17 services that are available to patients beyond the scope of a patient-cen-  
18 tered medical home; and

19 WHEREAS, the State Healthcare Innovation Plan envisions better connec-  
20 tion of the patient-centered medical home to the rest of the medical neigh-  
21 borhood in order to improve care coordination and care quality and reduce  
22 costs and duplication of services; and

23 WHEREAS, half of Idaho's 44 counties are frontier, with fewer than seven  
24 persons per square mile, resulting in areas that lack access to many levels  
25 of health care, including access to caregiving resources; and

26 WHEREAS, the population of the state that is 65 years and older is pro-  
27 jected to reach 370,000 in 2032, a significant increase from 2012, and this  
28 demographic represents the fastest growing population in the state; and

29 WHEREAS, Idaho has 137,099 veterans, with an estimated 19,041 who suf-  
30 fer disabilities, including 1,645 who are completely disabled; and

31 WHEREAS, an estimated 53,280 Idaho children have a special health care  
32 need, and an estimated 18,820 have a serious emotional disorder; and

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

35 WHEREAS, individuals who receive care at home are less likely to need  
36 public assistance; and

37 WHEREAS, at any time during the year an estimated 307,000 adults in  
38 Idaho provide care to adult relatives or friends, which equates to an esti-  
39 mated value of \$2 billion per year; and

40 WHEREAS, approximately two-thirds of Idaho's unpaid caregivers are em-  
41 ployed or looking for work, and their caregiving responsibilities therefore  
42 have an economic impact on families and employers in Idaho; and

1           WHEREAS, more than half of care recipients are under the age of 75, and  
2 almost one-third are under the age of 50, thus indicating that caregiving  
3 is a multigenerational issue in family life that also impacts a broad spec-  
4 trum of individuals with chronic illnesses that necessitate family caregiv-  
5 ing throughout the lifespan; and

6           WHEREAS, approximately 22,000 Idahoans are living with Alzheimer's  
7 Disease or a related disorder, and an estimated 77,000 individuals, many  
8 of whom are unpaid, provide caregiving responsibilities for people with  
9 Alzheimer's Disease or a related disorder; and

10          WHEREAS, to successfully address the surging population of older adults  
11 and people with disabilities who have significant needs for long-term ser-  
12 vices and support, the state must develop methods that both encourage and  
13 support individuals who assist family members and must also develop ways to  
14 recruit and retain a qualified, responsive in-home care workforce.

15          NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED by the members of the First Regular Ses-  
16 sion of the Sixty-third Idaho Legislature, the House of Representatives and  
17 the Senate concurring therein, that we endorse the efforts of the Idaho Care-  
18 giver Alliance and encourage their plans to create a task force to explore  
19 innovative means to support uncompensated family caregivers in Idaho and to  
20 provide information to those who may serve as a caregiver in the future.

21          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage the task force to explore poli-  
22 cies, resources and programs available for family caregivers and make this  
23 information available to the State Healthcare Innovation Plan leaders as a  
24 potential resource for the medical neighborhood model.

25          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage the task force to compile an in-  
26 ventory of the resources available to family caregivers in Idaho.

27          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we encourage the task force to report its  
28 findings to the Second Regular Session of the Sixty-third Idaho Legislature.