

February 16, 2015 – Remarks to Senate Health & Welfare Committee

Chairman Heider and Members of the Committee,

My name is Peggy Munson, I am retired geriatric nurse and past Volunteer State President for AARP Idaho.

I am here today to present RS 23624, a resolution pertaining to family caregiving – on behalf of AARP Idaho and the Idaho Caregiver Alliance.

The Idaho Caregiver Alliance a state-wide consortium led by the Idaho Commission on Aging and the Boise State University Center for the Study of Aging. There are approximately forty active members of the Alliance, including organizations such as the Idaho Alzheimer's Planning Group, Idaho Rural Health Association, Friends in Action, Disability Action Center and many more.

Caregiving is something almost everyone in this room will experience at some point in our lives – either as givers of care, or as recipients of care.

According to an AARP Public Policy Institute report called “Valuing the Invaluable: The Economic Value of Family Caregiving” – In Idaho there are approximately 200,000 people providing an estimated \$2 billion worth of unpaid care to family, friends and loved ones.

And as the demographics shift and the population ages, that number will grow.

This resolution seeks to raise awareness about uncompensated family caregivers and the critical role they play as part of our state's healthcare and long-term care system.

The resolution will also create a Task Force to coordinate and develop a comprehensive set of recommendations to inform stakeholders regarding innovative solutions to support uncompensated family caregivers in Idaho and to provide information to those who may serve as caregivers in the future.

The Task Force will compile an inventory of resources available to family caregivers and report its findings to the 2016 legislature.

On behalf of AARP Idaho and the Idaho Caregiver Alliance, we respectfully ask that you print this resolution and we thank you for your consideration on this important topic.

I'd be happy to answer any questions.

Peggy Munson
Boise, Idaho