

**STATE OF ALASKA
THE LEGISLATURE**

2010

Source
CSSCR 13(HSS)

**Legislative
Resolve No.**
36



Supporting senior caregivers and encouraging the Department of Health and Social Services to provide additional education on the effects of aging and the importance of senior caregivers.

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF ALASKA:

WHEREAS, every day, an estimated 23 people in Alaska turn 60; and

WHEREAS an estimated 52,620 people, or 7.5 percent of the state's population, are 65 years of age or older; and

WHEREAS the population in the state that is 65 years of age or older is expected to increase by 155 percent in the next 20 years to 134,391 in 2030; and

WHEREAS the population in the state that is 85 years of age or older is projected to reach 12,476 in 2030; and

WHEREAS approximately 5,700 people who are 65 years of age or older and 7,190 people who are 55 years of age or older in the state have Alzheimer's disease or a related disorder, and it is estimated that 14,170 people will have Alzheimer's disease or a related disorder by 2030; and

WHEREAS 70 percent of people with Alzheimer's disease or a related disorder live at home and need assistance with activities of daily living; and

WHEREAS more than 25 percent of all seniors need some level of assistance with activities of daily living; and

WHEREAS, in order to address the surging population of seniors who have significant needs for in-home care, the field of senior caregiving will continue to grow; and

WHEREAS an estimated 14,539 adults in the state provide care to individuals with Alzheimer's disease or a related disorder, which equates to an estimated 12,000,000 hours and an approximated value of \$140,000,000 each year; and

WHEREAS an estimated 96,800 adults in the state provide care to adult relatives or friends, and an estimated 1,595 adults provide paid senior care to nonrelatives; and

WHEREAS the longer seniors are able to provide for themselves, the less the public payment systems supported by state and federal governments are burdened;

BE IT RESOLVED that the Alaska State Legislature

- (1) recognizes senior caregiving as a profession;
- (2) supports the private home care industry and the efforts of family caregivers statewide by encouraging individuals to provide care to family, friends, and neighbors;
- (3) encourages accessible and affordable care for seniors;
- (4) will review state policies and support current state programs that address the needs of seniors and senior caregivers;
- (5) encourages the Department of Health and Social Services to continue to provide additional education on the effects of aging and the importance and availability of senior caregivers to meet personal needs.