

IN THE SENATE

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 111

BY HEALTH AND WELFARE COMMITTEE

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

STATING FINDINGS OF THE LEGISLATURE AND CREATING A TASK FORCE TO STUDY ISSUES  
RELATING TO FAMILY CAREGIVERS.

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the State Healthcare Innovation Plan envisions better connection of the patient-centered medical home to the rest of the medical neighborhood in order to improve care coordination and care quality and reduce costs and duplication of services; and

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

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

WHEREAS, Idaho has 137,099 veterans, with an estimated 19,041 who suffer disabilities, including 1,645 who are completely disabled; and

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

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

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

WHEREAS, at any time during the year an estimated 307,000 adults in Idaho provide care to adult relatives or friends, which equates to an estimated 201 million hours per year and an estimated value of \$2 billion per year; and

WHEREAS, approximately two-thirds of Idaho's unpaid caregivers are employed or looking for work, and their caregiving responsibilities therefore 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 Senate and the House of Repre-  
17 sentatives concurring therein, that the Idaho Caregiver Alliance convene a  
18 task force to coordinate and develop a comprehensive set of recommendations  
19 to inform stakeholders regarding innovative solutions to support uncompen-  
20 sated family caregivers in Idaho and to provide information to those who may  
21 serve as a caregiver in the future.

22          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Idaho Caregiver Alliance recruit mem-  
23 bers to the task force who represent a broad array of caregiving stakehold-  
24 ers.

25          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any task force members who are also members  
26 of the Legislature shall be reimbursed from legislative funds for per diem,  
27 mileage or other expenses.

28          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force hold an organizational meet-  
29 ing by May 31, 2015, and at such meeting elect a chair or co-chairs and adopt  
30 any rules or procedures that are necessary to conduct its business.

31          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force identify policies, resources  
32 and programs available for family caregivers and methods to support family  
33 caregivers and integrate this component of Idaho's health care system into  
34 the State Healthcare Innovation Plan medical neighborhood model.

35          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force compile an inventory of the  
36 resources available to family caregivers in Idaho.

37          BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force report its findings and rec-  
38 ommendations to the Second Regular Session of the Sixty-third Idaho Legisla-  
39 ture.