

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION 113

By Overbey

A RESOLUTION relative to caregivers.

WHEREAS, the population of Tennessee that is 85 years of age or older is projected to reach 421,000 in 2050; and

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

WHEREAS, almost three-fourths of older people living in the community who received personal assistance relied exclusively on unpaid caregivers for help; and

WHEREAS, almost all older adults who need assistance with activities of daily living want to remain in their homes and communities; and

WHEREAS, providing services and supports to older adults in their homes and communities is generally much less expensive than nursing home care; and

WHEREAS, older adults who receive cost-effective services in their homes are much less likely to need public assistance; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 1,650,000 adults in the state provide care to adult relatives or friends, which equates to an estimated 1,080,000,000 hours a year and an estimated value of \$11 billion each year; and

WHEREAS, to successfully address the surging population of older adults who have significant needs for long-term services and supports, the state must develop methods to both encourage and support families to support their aging relatives and develop ways to recruit and retain a qualified, responsive in-home care workforce; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE ONE HUNDRED EIGHTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING, that this General Assembly:

(1) Supports the dedicated work of family caregivers statewide and will continue to seek additional ways to support these individuals through information, education, training, and relief care;

(2) Recognizes caregiving for older adults as a vital and needed profession today and in the future;

(3) Strongly encourages additional innovative and creative means to support family caregivers to continue to provide needed in-home support for older adults;

(4) Pledges to review state policies and support current state programs that address the needs of older adults and their caregivers; and

(5) Encourages departments to continue to provide additional information and education on supporting older adults in their homes through both family caregivers and paid professional caregivers.