

# State of Vermont

## House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

### Joint House Resolution

J.R.H. 16

Joint resolution relating to Vermont caregivers

Offered by: Representatives Donovan of Burlington, Krowinski of Burlington, Batchelor of Derby, Clarkson of Woodstock, Cole of Burlington, Donahue of Northfield, Ellis of Waterbury, Fisher of Lincoln, Frank of Underhill, French of Randolph, Gallivan of Chittenden, Haas of Rochester, Hooper of Montpelier, Hoyt of Norwich, Martin of Wolcott, McCarthy of St. Albans City, Miller of Shaftsbury, Mrowicki of Putney, Pugh of South Burlington, Rachelson of Burlington, Ryerson of Randolph, Till of Jericho, Townsend of South Burlington, Trieber of Rockingham, Wizowaty of Burlington, and Yantachka of Charlotte

Whereas, the number of persons 85 years of age or older living in the State of Vermont is projected to grow by approximately 85.3 percent from 2010 to 2030, and

Whereas, the number of persons 85 years of age or older living in the State of Vermont is projected to reach 25,000 by 2032, and

Whereas, nationally, 70 percent of persons with Alzheimer's disease or a related disorder live at home and need assistance with activities of daily living, and

Whereas, nationally, almost three-fourths of older persons living in the community who receive personal assistance rely exclusively on unpaid caregivers for help, and

Whereas, an estimated 122,000 adults in Vermont provide care to adult relatives or friends, which equates to an estimated 80 million hours a year and an estimated value of \$990 million each year, and

Whereas, to address successfully the surging population of older adults who have significant needs for long-term services and supports, the State needs to develop methods to both encourage and support families who care for their aging relatives, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly 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, and be it further



Resolved: That the General Assembly recognizes caregiving for older adults as a vital and needed profession today and in the future, and be it further

Resolved: That the General Assembly urges the creation of a special unit within the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living that focuses on recruiting, retaining, and supporting family and paid caregivers, and be it further

Resolved: That the General Assembly strongly encourages additional innovative and creative means to support family caregivers to continue to provide needed in-home support for older adults, and be it further

Resolved: That the General Assembly should support current State programs that address the needs of older adults and their caregivers, and be it further

Resolved: That the General Assembly encourages the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living to continue to provide information and education on supporting older adults in their homes through both family caregivers and paid professional caregivers, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Secretary of Human Services and the Commissioner of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living.