

ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE

SECOND SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 410

Introduced by Hansen, 42; Campbell, 25; Coash, 27; Fulton, 29; Gay, 14; Howard, 9; Krist, 10; Nelson, 6; Stuthman, 22; Wightman, 36.

WHEREAS, November 2010 is National Family Caregivers Month; and

WHEREAS, each day 58 people in Nebraska turn 60 years old; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 240,847 people in Nebraska, 13.5 percent of the population, are 65 years of age and older, and this number is expected to increase in the next 20 years to 375,811, or 20.6 percent of the population in 2030; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 41,008 people in Nebraska, 2.3 percent of the population, are 85 years of age and older, and this number is expected to increase in the next 20 years to 56,186, or 3.1 percent of the population in 2030; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that 37,000 people in Nebraska currently have Alzheimer's disease, and this number is expected to increase to between 58,000 and 60,000 by 2050, with 70 percent of the people with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias living at home; and

WHEREAS, currently over 12.9 percent of all seniors need some level of assistance with their daily activities; and

WHEREAS, there are an estimated 358,165 adults in

Nebraska providing non-family-paid and unpaid care to adult relatives or friends; and

WHEREAS, both unpaid family caregivers and paid caregivers work together to serve the daily living needs of seniors who live in their own homes; and

WHEREAS, the Department of Health and Human Services estimated that the paid caregiver workforce will increase by 52 percent by 2025; and

WHEREAS, the longer a senior is able to provide for his or her own care, the less burden that is placed on public payment systems in state and federal governments.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED FIRST LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, SECOND SESSION:

1. That the Legislature recognizes the importance of caregiving and the caregiving profession and supports the private home care industry and the efforts of family caregivers throughout Nebraska by encouraging individuals to provide care to family, friends, and neighbors.

2. That the Legislature encourages accessible and affordable care for seniors and supports continuing review of state policies and current state programs that address the needs of seniors and their family caregivers.

3. That the Legislature encourages the Department of Health and Human Services to continue working to educate people in Nebraska on the impact of aging and the importance of knowing the options available to seniors when they need care to meet their personal needs.

4. That the Legislature recognizes November 2010 as

Nebraska Family Caregivers Month and encourages citizens to participate in activities of National Family Caregivers Month.

5. That a copy of this resolution be sent to the Department of Health and Human Services.