

## ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE

## FIRST SESSION

**LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 176**

Introduced by Hansen, 42; Brasch, 16; Campbell, 25; Carlson, 38; Fulton, 29; Gloor, 35; Harms, 48; Howard, 9; Krist, 10; Utter, 33; Wallman, 30; Wightman, 36.

WHEREAS, November 2011 is National Family Caregivers Month; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 250,000 people in Nebraska, 13 percent of the population, are 65 years of age and older, and this number is expected to increase in the next 20 years to 420,000, or 23 percent of the population in 2030; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 45,000 people in Nebraska, 2.5 percent of the population, are 85 years of age and older, and this number is expected to increase in the next 20 years to 60,000, 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 44,000 by 2025, with 70 percent of the people with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias living at home; and

WHEREAS, currently 13 percent of those age 62 and older need some level of assistance with their activities of daily living; and

WHEREAS, there are an estimated 225,000 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 more than 50 percent by 2025; and

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

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE MEMBERS OF THE ONE HUNDRED SECOND LEGISLATURE OF NEBRASKA, FIRST 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 which 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 2011 as Nebraska Caregivers Month and encourages citizens to participate in activities of the National Family Caregivers Month in November.

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