

ONE HUNDRED THIRD LEGISLATURE

FIRST SESSION

LEGISLATIVE RESOLUTION 122

Introduced by Hansen, 42.

WHEREAS, November 2013 is National Family Caregivers Month; and

WHEREAS, about 250,000 people in Nebraska, 14 percent of the state's population, are 65 years of age and older, and that number is expected to increase in the next twenty years to 375,000 people, or 21 percent of the state's population in 2030; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 45,000 people in Nebraska, 2.5 percent of the state's population, are 85 years of age and older, and that number is expected to increase in the next twenty years to 60,000 people, or 3 percent of the state's population in 2030; and

WHEREAS, it is estimated that 37,000 people in Nebraska have Alzheimer's disease, and this number is expected to increase to 44,000 people by 2025 with an expected 70 percent of the people with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia living at home; and

WHEREAS, 13 percent of those persons 62 years of age and older need some level of assistance with the activities of daily living, and there are an estimated 200,000 adults in Nebraska providing 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 the burden that is placed on public assistance offered by the state and federal governments.

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

1. That the Legislature recognizes the importance of caregiving and the caregiving profession and supports the private home health 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 the 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 2013 as Nebraska Caregivers Month and encourages citizens to participate in activities related to National Family Caregivers Month.

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