

State of South Dakota

NINETY-FIRST SESSION
LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY, 2016

751X0381

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 1

Introduced by: Senators Rusch, Bradford, Frerichs, Peterson (Jim), Soholt, and Tieszen and Representatives Ring, Bartling, Bordeaux, Feickert, Gibson, Hawks, Hawley, Killer, Kirschman, McCleerey, Rasmussen, Schoenfish, Schrempp, Soli, and Verchio

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION, To show support for family caregivers.

2 WHEREAS, family caregivers play a vital role in enabling frail seniors, people with serious
3 health challenges, people with special needs, and others requiring assistance with activities of
4 daily living to remain in their homes; and

5 WHEREAS, enabling people to remain at home for as long as possible is both more
6 compassionate and more affordable than institutional care, which comes at a high cost, often
7 supported by taxes; and

8 WHEREAS, in South Dakota, 84,600 family caregivers provide 79 million hours of care,
9 an estimated economic value of \$1.03 billion, valued at \$13.12 per hour; and

10 WHEREAS, by 2025, South Dakotans attaining the age of 65 will increase by approximately
11 100,000, making up over twenty percent of the population in all but nine counties. In eleven
12 counties, they will make up over forty percent of the population; and

13 WHEREAS, over thirty percent of adults age 60 and above have one or more disabilities,
14 including disabilities that affect self care; and



1 WHEREAS, medical advances allow millions to live much longer with chronic illnesses,
2 increasing the requirement for caregiving; and

3 WHEREAS, the stress imposed on families by caregiving is a health risk factor that warrants
4 attention as a public health issue; and

5 WHEREAS, caregiving imposes significant financial burdens on both caregivers and
6 employers, affecting the economy and contributing to the impoverishment of families; and

7 WHEREAS, nationally, caregiver services were valued at \$470 billion per year in 2013; and

8 WHEREAS, the Alzheimer's Association estimates that one in nine Americans aged 65 and
9 older are affected with the condition:

10 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the Senate of the Ninety-First Legislature of
11 the State of South Dakota, the House of Representatives concurring therein, that we recognize
12 and support the important role that family caregivers play in South Dakota; that we support
13 policies and initiatives to provide the support and training needed to make family caregiving
14 more feasible, affordable, and effective; that we encourage efforts at the state and county level
15 to analyze population demographic trends to determine both current and future service
16 requirements for care recipients and caregivers, and to permit data-driven policy and program
17 recommendations about our aging populations and the workforce development needed to
18 empower those who need care to heal, age, and live in place; that we encourage employers to
19 establish policies that recognize the impact that caregiving can have on workers, and encourage
20 employers to find ways to support their workers during difficult family times; and that we
21 encourage the creation of volunteer caregiver corps, to provide nonmedical assistance and
22 companionship to frail elders at no public expense.