

By: Representative Rushing

To: Rules

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 100

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION COMMENDING AND SUPPORTING THE
2 CAREGIVERS TASK FORCE FOR PROVIDING THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES AND
3 SKILLS NECESSARY TO PROVIDE SENIOR CITIZENS AND INDIVIDUALS WITH
4 SPECIAL NEEDS THE APPROPRIATE AND ADEQUATE LEVEL OF CARE.

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

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

13 WHEREAS, in Mississippi, 800,000 family caregivers provide
14 373 million hours of care, an economic value of nearly 5 million
15 dollars valued at \$11.53 per hour; and

16 WHEREAS, by 2030, the percentage of individuals in
17 Mississippi over the age of 65 is expected to rise to 25 percent
18 or one in four individuals, with the 85-plus group the fastest
19 growing group, expected to increase to 147 percent by 2040; and



20 WHEREAS, over 30 percent of adults 60-plus have one or more
21 disabilities, including disabilities that affect self-care; and

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

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

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

31 WHEREAS, nationally, caregiver services were valued at 470
32 billion dollars per year in 2013; and

33 WHEREAS, the Alzheimer's Association estimates that one in
34 nine Americans aged 65 and older are affected with the condition;
35 and

36 WHEREAS, it is the policy of this Legislature to recognize
37 contributions to the health and well-being of Mississippians of
38 all ages and abilities such as that of the Caregivers Task Force,
39 which has worked tirelessly to ensure that the elderly and those
40 living with special needs receive the proper level of care in an
41 effective and dignified manner:

42 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF
43 REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF MISSISSIPPI, THE SENATE CONCURRING
44 THEREIN, That we do recognize and support the important role that



45 family caregivers play in Mississippi and we support policies and
46 initiatives to provide the support and training needed to make
47 family caregiving more feasible, affordable and effective.

48 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we encourage efforts at the
49 state and national level to analyze population demographic trends
50 to determine both current and future service requirements for care
51 recipients and caregivers, and to permit data-driven policy and
52 program recommendations about our aging populations and the
53 workforce development needed to empower those who need care to
54 heal, age and live in peace.

55 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we encourage employers to
56 establish policies that recognize the impact that caregiving can
57 have on workers, encouraging employers to find ways to support
58 their workers during difficult family times, and we encourage the
59 creation of volunteer "Caregiver Corps" to provide nonmedical
60 assistance and companionship to frail elders and others with
61 disability at no public expense.

62 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That copies of this resolution be
63 furnished to the Caregivers Task Force member Spencer Blalock, the
64 Mississippi Department of Health and to the members of the Capitol
65 Press Corps.

