

10 A RESOLUTION CONCERNING
20 THE LIFESPAN RESPITE CARE ACT OF 2002

30 WHEREAS: An estimated 26,000,000 individuals in the United States care each year for 1 or
40 more adult family members or friends who are chronically ill, disabled, or
50 terminally ill; and,

60 WHEREAS: An estimated 18,000,000 children in the United States have chronic physical,
70 developmental, behavioral, or emotional conditions that demand caregiver
80 monitoring, management, supervision or treatment beyond that required of
90 children generally; and,

100 WHEREAS: Approximately 6,000,000 children in the United States live with a grandparent
110 or other relative because their parents are unable or unwilling to care for them;
120 and,

130 WHEREAS: Nearly 4,000,000 individuals in the United States of all ages who have mental
140 retardation or another developmental disability live with their families; and,

150 WHEREAS: Almost 25 percent of the nation's elders experience multiple chronic disabling
160 conditions that make it necessary to rely on others for help in meeting their daily
170 needs; and,

180 WHEREAS: Every year, approximately 600,000 Americans die at home and many of these
190 individuals rely on extensive family care giving before their death; and,

200 WHEREAS: There are insufficient resources to replace family caregivers with paid workers;
210 and,

220 WHEREAS: If services provided by family caregivers had to be replaced with paid services,
230 it would cost approximately \$200,000,000,000 annually; and,

240 WHEREAS: The family caregiver role is personally rewarding but can result in substantial
250 emotional, physical, and financial hardship; and,

260 WHEREAS: More training and better resources will help to alleviate these aforementioned
270 hardships; and,

280 WHEREAS: This current legislation appropriates \$90.5 million for fiscal year 2003 for the
290 purpose of encouraging states to establish state and local respite care programs;
300 to improve and coordinate the dissemination of respite care information and
310 resources to family caregivers; to provide, supplement, or improve respite care
320 services to family caregivers; to support evaluative research to identify effective
330 respite care services that alleviate, reduce or minimize any negative
340 consequences of care giving; and to promote the dissemination of related results,
350 findings, and information from programs and research projects.

360 THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED: That the Maryland Student Legislature supports the
370 implementation of the Lifespan Respite Care Act; and,

380 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED: That the Maryland Student Legislature applauds the sponsors
390 of the Lifespan Respite Care Act and their efforts in unveiling the long
400 overlooked issue of caregiving.

410 MANDATES: President of the Senate
420 Senate Majority Leader
430 Senate Minority Leader
440 Senator Barbara Mikulski
450 Speaker of the House, Dennis Hastert
460 House Majority Leader, Dick Armey
470 House Minority Leader, Dick Gephardt
480 Rep Connie Morella
490 Rep Elijah Cummings
500 Governor-Elect, Bob Ehrlich

Sponsor:

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