

1 State of Arkansas
2 89th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2013

SR 14

4
5 By: Senator Files

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7 **SENATE RESOLUTION**

8 COMMENDING THE ARKANSAS AGING INITIATIVE FOR ITS
9 STATEWIDE PROGRAM OF COMPREHENSIVE GERIATRIC HEALTH
10 CARE AND EDUCATION FOR SENIOR CITIZENS LIVING IN
11 RURAL ARKANSAS.

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14 **Subtitle**

15 COMMENDING THE ARKANSAS AGING INITIATIVE
16 FOR ITS CONTINUING COMMITMENT TO
17 ARKANSAS'S SENIOR CITIZENS.

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20 WHEREAS, the Eighty-third General Assembly of the State of Arkansas
21 provided money from the tobacco Master Settlement Agreement to fund a
22 statewide program of specialized health care services for seniors living in
23 rural Arkansas; and

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25 WHEREAS, the Arkansas Aging Initiative, a program of the Donald W.
26 Reynolds Institute on Aging, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences,
27 formed partnerships with local and regional hospitals, area health education
28 centers, the area agencies on aging, the Division of Aging and Adult Services
29 of the Department of Human Services, local communities, and colleges and
30 universities; and

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32 WHEREAS, the Arkansas Aging Initiative, using these partnerships,
33 established the comprehensive regional centers on aging: Delta Center on
34 Aging (West Memphis), South Arkansas Center on Aging (El Dorado), West
35 Central Center on Aging (Fort Smith), Center on Aging - Northeast
36 (Jonesboro), South Central Center on Aging (Pine Bluff), Schmieding Center



1 for Senior Health and Education (Springdale), Texarkana Regional Center on
2 Aging (Texarkana), Oaklawn Senior Health Care Center (Hot Springs), and Mruk
3 Family Center on Aging (Mountain Home); and

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5 WHEREAS, the Arkansas Aging Initiative designed a model program to
6 deliver specialized interprofessional geriatric healthcare and education
7 programs to senior citizens residing in rural Arkansas; and

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9 WHEREAS, the Arkansas Aging Initiative has become a national model and
10 is being replicated in the State of Oklahoma with a grant from the Donald W.
11 Reynolds Foundation; and

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13 WHEREAS, the Arkansas Aging Initiative continues to address the needs
14 of seniors by using a grant from the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation to
15 replicate the Schmieding Home Caregiver Program at other regional centers on
16 aging for family members and persons needing specialized training to care for
17 seniors; and

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19 WHEREAS, the Arkansas Aging Initiative provides specialized
20 interprofessional geriatric healthcare and education programs through a
21 network of comprehensive regional centers on aging within sixty (60) miles of
22 every Arkansas senior,

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24 NOW THEREFORE,

25 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE EIGHTY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
26 STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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28 THAT the Senate recognizes and commends Dr. Claudia Beverly and the
29 Arkansas Aging Initiative leadership team for their efforts in designing,
30 implementing, and operating the comprehensive program of specialized health
31 services for our senior citizens and their families.

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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the Senate commends the participating hospital
34 administrators, geriatricians, nurses, educators, and other members of the
35 health profession teams working in these rural areas for their commitment and
36 devotion to improving the quality of life for older Arkansans and their

1 families.

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