

EXHIBIT H-7

INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2017-019

1
2
3 REQUESTING THAT THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE,
4 AND LABOR STUDY RESPITE CARE WITHIN THE STATE OF ARKANSAS.

5
6 WHEREAS, each year, approximately six hundred ninety-eight thousand
7 (698,000) Arkansans provide care for a family member with a disability or
8 mental illness or who is aging; and

9
10 WHEREAS, the total hours of caregiving given by Arkansans in this
11 situation exceeds four hundred fifty million (450,000,000) hours annually;
12 and

13
14 WHEREAS, the value of family care provided in Arkansas in this type of
15 situation is approximately four billion five hundred million dollars
16 (\$4,500,000,000) per year; and

17
18 WHEREAS, with ten thousand (10,000) persons retiring each day in the
19 United States, the demand for long-term care services and supports will
20 increase sharply in the coming years; and

21
22 WHEREAS, the demands of caregiving take a toll on the family members
23 who provide care; and

24
25 WHEREAS, one (1) in six (6) people report that caregiving has made
26 their health worse; and

27
28 WHEREAS, sixty percent (60%) of family caregivers reported fair or poor
29 health, one (1) or more chronic conditions, or a disability, which is a
30 significant contrast to thirty-three percent (33%) of non-cargivers; and

31
32 WHEREAS, the demands of caregiving over time can lead to the disabled
33 family member being placed in a nursing home or other institution outside of
34 the home; and

1 WHEREAS, respite care, or a break from caregiving, can provide relief
2 from the demands of caregiving and therefore allow disabled family members to
3 continue to live in the home; and
4

5 WHEREAS, the State of Arkansas has few options for respite care from
6 state funded programs or community-based programs; and
7

8 WHEREAS, the General Assembly should investigate the state of respite
9 care across the state,
10

11 NOW THEREFORE,

12 BE IT PROPOSED BY THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON PUBLIC HEALTH, WELFARE, AND LABOR OF
13 THE NINETY-FIRST GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:
14

15 THAT the House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor study
16 respite care within the State of Arkansas.
17

18 BE IT FURTHER PROPOSED THAT, upon request, the following entities
19 provide assistance to the House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and
20 Labor to perform this study:

21 (1) The Division of Developmental Disabilities Services of the
22 Department of Human Services;

23 (2) The Division of Aging and Adult Services of the Department
24 of Human Services;

25 (3) The Division of Behavioral Health Services of the Department
26 of Human Services;

27 (4) The Division of Medical Services of the Department of Human
28 Services;

29 (5) The Arkansas AARP;

30 (6) The Partners for Inclusive Communities;

31 (7) The National Alliance on Mental Illness (NAMI) Arkansas;

32 (8) The Arkansas Waiver Association;

33 (9) The Arkansas Developmental Disabilities Provider
34 Association; and

35 (10) The Area Agencies on Aging.
36

1
2
3
4
5
6
7
8
9
10
11
12
13
14
15
16
17
18
19
20
21
22
23
24
25
26
27
28
29
30
31
32
33
34
35
36

Respectfully submitted,

Representative Deborah Ferguson
District 51

Senator Keith Ingram
District 24

By: JMB/JMB

