

1 INTERIM STUDY PROPOSAL 2017-019

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

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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

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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

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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

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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

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

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

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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

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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
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5 WHEREAS, the State of Arkansas has few options for respite care from
6 state funded programs or community-based programs; and
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8 WHEREAS, the General Assembly should investigate the state of respite
9 care across the state,
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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:
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15 THAT the House Committee on Public Health, Welfare, and Labor study
16 respite care within the State of Arkansas.
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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.
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Respectfully submitted,

Representative Deborah Ferguson
District 51

Senator Keith Ingram
District 24

By: JMB/JMB