

1 State of Arkansas
2 87th General Assembly
3 Regular Session, 2009

SR 26

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5 By: Senator Salmon

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8 **SENATE RESOLUTION**

9 REQUESTING THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON CHILDREN AND
10 YOUTH CONDUCT AN INTERIM STUDY ON THE ISSUE OF
11 GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN AND THE
12 FEASIBILITY OF PROVIDING A SUBSIDY TO LOW TO
13 MODERATE INCOME GRANDPARENTS RAISING
14 GRANDCHILDREN.

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16 **Subtitle**

17 REQUESTING AN INTERIM STUDY ON
18 GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN AND
19 THE FEASIBILITY OF PROVIDING A SUBSIDY
20 TO GRANDPARENTS RAISING GRANDCHILDREN.

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23 WHEREAS, as the number of orphaned and neglected children swells,
24 states increasingly are turning for help to grandparents and other family
25 members to care for abandoned children; and

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27 WHEREAS, relatives provide homes for the vast majority of children
28 whose parents can no longer care for them, saving taxpayers billions of
29 dollars a year in child welfare costs in the United States; and

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31 WHEREAS, without other family members to provide care, the soaring
32 number of children left behind by parents in military service or suffering
33 from drug addictions, domestic violence, incarcerations, and autoimmune
34 deficiency syndrome duty would choke already-clogged child welfare systems;
35 and



1 WHEREAS, eighteen (18) states have recently expanded their kinship care
2 programs, and other states have pending legislation that would reduce
3 paperwork, provide support services, and increase funding for relative
4 caregivers; and

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6 WHEREAS, states have called on child welfare agencies to make relatives
7 the first choice when selecting permanent homes for children in state
8 custody; and

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10 WHEREAS, nationwide, at least 4.5 million (4,500,000) children are
11 living in households headed by grandparents; 1.5 million (1,500,000) more are
12 living with other relatives. and of those, 2.5 million (2,500,000) kids are
13 living without either parent present; and

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15 WHEREAS, over thirty thousand (30,000) children in Arkansas are living
16 in households headed by grandparents and other relatives without either
17 parent present; and

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19 WHEREAS, the most successful state kinship care efforts include
20 subsidized guardianship programs in which grandparents, uncles, and aunts
21 receive the same or nearly the same level of financial support as non-related
22 foster parents, but without as much state supervision and paperwork; and

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24 WHEREAS, thirty-two (32) states offer some type of subsidized
25 guardianship,

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27 NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED:

28 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE EIGHTY-SEVENTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE
29 STATE OF ARKANSAS:

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31 THAT the Senate Committee on Children and Youth conduct an interim study on
32 the issue of grandparents raising grandchildren and the feasibility of
33 providing a subsidy to low to moderate income grandparents raising
34 grandchildren.

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