

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 618 Session of
2004

INTRODUCED BY S. H. SMITH, THOMAS, ADOLPH, ARGALL, BALDWIN, BARRAR, BASTIAN, BEBKO-JONES, BENNINGHOFF, BOYD, BROWNE, BUNT, CAPPELLI, CAUSER, CLYMER, CRAHALLA, CREIGHTON, DeLUCA, DeWEESE, J. EVANS, FABRIZIO, FAIRCHILD, FICHTER, FLICK, FORCIER, FRANKEL, GEIST, GEORGE, GINGRICH, GODSHALL, GOOD, HARPER, HERMAN, HESS, HICKERNELL, HORSEY, KELLER, KILLION, KIRKLAND, KOTIK, LEDERER, LEH, LEWIS, MACKERETH, MAJOR, MANN, MARKOSEK, MARSICO, McCALL, McILHATTAN, MILLARD, R. MILLER, S. MILLER, MUSTIO, NAILOR, O'NEILL, PALLONE, PAYNE, PHILLIPS, PICKETT, PISTELLA, READSHAW, ROSS, RUBLEY, SATHER, SAYLOR, SCAVELLO, SCHRODER, SEMMEL, B. SMITH, SOLOBAY, R. STEVENSON, T. STEVENSON, E. Z. TAYLOR, J. TAYLOR, TIGUE, TRUE, TURZAI, WALKO, WASHINGTON, WATSON, WEBER, WHEATLEY, WILT, WOJNAROSKI, YOUNGBLOOD AND YUDICHAK, MARCH 18, 2004

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES,
MARCH 18, 2004

A RESOLUTION

1 Directing the Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to
2 conduct a thorough review of Pennsylvania's long-term care
3 continuum, to examine current demographic information in
4 order to identify anticipated future demand for long-term
5 care programs and services and the ability of the current
6 long-term care provider network to meet that demand and to
7 assess the role of private and public payors in meeting the
8 current and anticipated future costs for long-term care
9 programs and services.

10 WHEREAS, It is estimated that one in five persons will need
11 long-term care services at some time; and

12 WHEREAS, Long-term care programs and services are paid for
13 either privately by or on behalf of consumers or through
14 government-funded programs, yet certain types of government-
15 funded financing are only available for certain types of long-

1 term care programs and services; and

2 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania has the distinction nationwide of
3 ranking second only to Florida in the percent of its total State
4 population over 65 years of age; and

5 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania's long-term care continuum encompasses
6 a broad range of services provided to meet a wide range of
7 needs, including medical, personal, social, supportive and
8 housing needs, in a variety of settings; and

9 WHEREAS, Pennsylvanians are fortunate to have access to many
10 high-quality, licensed long-term care providers of skilled
11 nursing facilities, personal care homes, domiciliary care homes,
12 older adult daily living centers and home health care agencies;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Each long-term care provider category has a specific
15 mission and is designed to meet a specific type of long-term
16 care need; and

17 WHEREAS, It is estimated that families provide 80% of the
18 required long-term care and services needed and that one out of
19 every four households in the country is involved with caregiving
20 in some capacity; and

21 WHEREAS, During the past ten years, the largest percentage
22 increase in the national population occurred in the segment of
23 individuals who were 85 years of age and older; and

24 WHEREAS, During the period from 2000 to 2010, the fastest-
25 growing age group in this Commonwealth includes individuals who
26 are 85 years of age and older; and

27 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania, along with the rest of the nation, is
28 experiencing a severe shortage of health care workers, with 77%
29 of nongovernment nursing homes and 71% of the home health and
30 home care agencies reporting frontline worker shortages; and

1 WHEREAS, Pennsylvania policymakers recognize that effective
2 long-term care services planning can only be accomplished with
3 an informed and complete assessment of the current long-term
4 care continuum combined with demographic data to indicate
5 current and anticipated needs; therefore be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives direct the
7 Legislative Budget and Finance Committee to conduct a thorough
8 review of Pennsylvania's long-term care continuum, to examine
9 current demographic and related information in order to identify
10 anticipated future demand for programs and services and the
11 ability of the current long-term care provider network to meet
12 that demand and to assess the role of private and public payors
13 in meeting the current and future costs for long-term care
14 programs and services; and be it further

15 RESOLVED, That the committee make a report with
16 recommendations, as appropriate, which shall be submitted to the
17 Speaker of the House of Representatives and to members of the
18 Aging and Older Adult Services Committee and the Health and
19 Human Services Committee within one year.