By Representatives Ward and McClurkin

RFD: Rules

First Read: 17-FEB-09
ENROLLED, House Joint Resolution,

ESTABLISHING ALABAMA LIFESPAN RESPITE RESOURCE
NETWORK, KNOWN ALSO AS ALABAMA RESPITE, AS THE LEAD ENTITY FOR
LIFESPAN RESPITE COORDINATION IN THE STATE OF ALABAMA AND THE
DESIGNATED COORDINATOR OF THE ALABAMA RESPITE COALITION.

WHEREAS, respite is short term temporary relief that
can make a world of difference for family caregivers of both
children and adults with disabilities and other health care
needs; and

WHEREAS, respite is one of the home and
community-based services most requested by family caregivers,
yet remains in short supply; and

WHEREAS, by some estimates, over 400,000 adults in
Alabama are caregivers for a family member; and

WHEREAS, respite helps preserve families by reducing
stress, supporting stability, preventing situations that can
lead to abuse and neglect, and reducing the incidence of
divorce and out-of-home placement; and

WHEREAS, respite is a simple, cost-effective
solution for situations that can otherwise devastate families;
and

WHEREAS, a state lifespan respite program simplifies
and accelerates the process for accessing respite services and
is recognized by service providers, families, and policymakers, in Alabama as well as nationwide, as the best practice in the provision of respite care in the most cost-effective way; and

WHEREAS, federal legislation was passed in Congress that would provide a mechanism to fund states that have collaborative systems of lifespan respite provision in place; and

WHEREAS, the Alabama Lifespan Respite Resource Network was created to develop the infrastructure for a statewide network of lifespan respite programs in Alabama and be the statewide entity to address issues relating to respite care in our state; now therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That the following words shall have the following meanings:

(1) ADULT WITH SPECIAL NEED. A person 19 years of age or older who requires care or supervision to meet the person's basic needs or prevent physical self-injury or injury to others, or avoid placement in an institutional facility.

(2) AGING AND DISABILITY RESOURCE CENTER. An entity that provides a coordinated system for providing information on long-term care programs and options, personal counseling, and consumer access to publicly support long-term care programs.
(3) CHILD WITH SPECIAL NEED. A person under age 19 who requires care or supervision beyond that required for children generally to meet the child's basic needs or prevent physical injury to self or others.

(4) ELIGIBLE STATE AGENCY. A state agency that administers the Older Americans Act or the state's Medicaid program or one designated by the Governor, and is an aging and disability resource center working in collaboration with a state respite coalition or organization.

(5) FAMILY CAREGIVER. Family members, foster parents, or other adults providing ongoing unpaid care for an adult or child with special needs.

(6) LIFESPAN RESPITE CARE. Coordinated systems of accessible, community-based respite care services for family caregivers of children or adults with special needs.

(7) RESPITE. Planned or emergency care provided to a child or adult with a special need in order to provide temporary relief to the family caregiver of that child or adult.

(8) RESPITE PROVIDER. An individual who provides a temporary break or period of relief to family caregivers.

(9) SPECIAL NEED. A disability or chronic illness as defined in Public Law 109-442.
(10) STAKEHOLDER. A person, group, organization, or system that affects or can be affected by an organization's actions.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That we hereby establish Alabama Lifespan Respite Resource Network as the statewide entity that shall do the following:

(1) Address issues relating to respite care in our state.

(2) Maintain a statewide system that facilitates the availability and use of high quality, cost-effective lifespan respite services that provide caregivers the break they need from caring for a loved one with disability or chronic illness.

(3) Develop and coordinate the Alabama Respite Coalition.

(4) Work in collaboration with the eligible state agency and the Governor's Office to access funding through the federal Lifespan Respite Care Act of 2006 (PL109-442).

(5) Identify statewide respite care providers.

(6) Maintain a directory of respite services in Alabama and link family caregivers with respite care providers and other types of respite-related programs.

(7) Provide technical assistance to community-based organizations and other entities that wish to develop a respite care program.
(8) Provide voucher respite funding to eligible primary caregivers as funds are available.

(9) Provide information and referral services.

(10) Provide an easy to access and/or interactive information avenue, such as a toll-free number or informational website like www.alabamarespite.org, to share current news about respite including new resources, training opportunities, and information for caregivers.

(11) Offer family caregiver training through partnership with other agencies or other organizations or advocacy groups.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That there is established the Alabama Respite Coalition composed of members who shall be culturally, economically, and geographically diverse and representative of the state demographics and appointed by the Governor or his or her designee. The membership may include but is not limited to the following:

(1) A member from the Alabama House of Representatives.

(2) A member from the Alabama Senate.

(3) A member from the Governor's Office on Disability.

(4) A member from the Department of Senior Services.

(5) A member from the Department of Medicaid.
(6) A member from the Department of Rehabilitation Services.

(7) A member from the Department of Human Resources.

(8) A member from the Alabama Health Department.

(9) A member from the Department of Child Abuse and Neglect Prevention.

(10) A member from the Department of Mental Health and Mental Retardation.

(11) A member from the Alabama Council for Developmental Disabilities.

(12) A representative from a United Cerebral Palsy affiliate in Alabama.

(13) A representative from a statewide advocacy or support group.

(14) A representative from a community respite initiative or program.

(15) A representative from a collaborative training partner.

(16) Two family caregivers representing diverse special needs populations.

(17) Two respite care providers.

(18) A representative from the Autism Society of Alabama.

(19) A representative from the Alabama Hospice Organization.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That members of the coalition shall meet at least twice a year, and at such other times as the chair of the coalition deems appropriate. Members shall serve without compensation. A chair of the coalition shall be elected by the membership at the first meeting of the coalition. Members shall be appointed for three-year terms and may be eligible to succeed themselves for one additional term. Members shall be appointed to the coalition within 30 days of the effective date of this resolution. Any member who fails to attend three consecutive meetings or at least one-half of all coalition meetings held during the calendar year shall be deemed to have resigned. Vacant positions shall be filled for any expired term by the respective appointing authorities.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That the coalition shall have the following responsibilities:

(1) Build partnerships and coordinate respite care efforts statewide, and prepare Alabama to compete for federal funding when the Lifespan Respite Act is funded.

(2) Provide public awareness about respite to the citizens of Alabama.

(3) Identify, coordinate, and develop community/funding resources for respite services.

(4) Build local partnerships and collaborations regarding respite services.
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That Alabama Lifespan Respite Resource Network shall be designated as the entity to facilitate a minimum of two meetings per year for the Alabama Respite Coalition and to coordinate activities and initiatives of the coalition and that the Alabama Lifespan Respite Coalition shall be the statewide respite coalition referred to in the Federal Lifespan Respite Care Act of 2006 (PL109-442). Alabama Respite will work in coordination with the eligible state agency, as mandated by the act, to develop a Memorandum of Agreement with the eligible state agency in order to allow Alabama to compete for federal funding.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That should funding be obtained through the act, the coalition will support Alabama Respite's efforts to actively develop and continue respite-related services with funds utilized for the following mandated purposes:

1. Development or enhancement of lifespan respite programs at state and local levels.
2. Direct respite care services for family caregivers caring for children or adults.
3. Respite worker and volunteer training and recruitment.
4. Provision of information to caregivers about available respite services.
(5) Assistance to caregivers in gaining access to such services.

Optional uses of the funds may include:

(1) Training programs for Alabama's family caregivers to assist them in making informed decisions about respite care services.

(2) Other services essential to the provision of respite care as specified in the proposal process.

(3) Training and education for new caregivers.
Speaker of the House of Representatives

President and Presiding Officer of the Senate

House of Representatives
I hereby certify that the within Act originated in and was adopted by the House 05-MAR-09.

Greg Pappas
Clerk

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