

RESOLUTION

To promote the formation of state-county-private partnerships to provide home meal delivery to senior citizens

A RESOLUTION TO: promote formation of state-county-private partnerships to provide home meal delivery to senior citizens.

WHEREAS, Currently, only about one percent of the population aged 65 through 75 lives in a nursing home, and although the proportion increases among older age groups, nursing home residents still account for less than 10 percent of persons between the ages 75 through 85. To the extent possible, and as a matter of prudent public policy, every effort should be made to ensure that older Texans are able to live in their own homes as long as possible; and

WHEREAS, Individuals living as independently as possible in their own homes and in their own communities where they enjoy a sense of belonging not only maintain a higher quality of life and experience a sense of empowerment and control, but by delaying or avoiding the need for expensive institutional care, they also save their families money and relieve an over-burdened health care system that is facing even greater challenges in the near future with the looming retirement of a 76-million member "boomer" generation, when the population of retirees will grow much more quickly than the taxpaying workforce; and

WHEREAS, It has been estimated that about 80 percent of Americans 65 or older have no limitations on their daily activities;(today's retirees expect to maintain an active lifestyle and often are able to do so, with very little assistance except for minimal services such as Meals-on-Wheels) therefore an investment of public and private funds or a public-private partnership to expand home meal delivery services to senior citizens would allow them to remain in their own homes and out of institutional care and would reap untold benefits in quality of life for the individual citizen and significant savings to the state; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED: That the 11th Texas Silver-Haired Legislature encourage and strongly recommend that the 80th Texas Legislature pass legislation to adopt appropriate measures to promote the formation of state-county-private partnerships to provide home meal delivery to senior citizens and allow countless deserving older Texans to continue living in their own homes and thus maintain the highest quality of life possible.

PASSED AND APPROVED this 12th day of September, 2006, by the General Committee.

Maurice Osborn, Chair

PASSED AND APPROVED this 13th day of September, 2006, by the Texas Silver-Haired Legislature.

Charlotte Parks, Speaker

ATTEST:

Carlos Higgins, Secretary