

**Assembly Concurrent Resolution**

**No. 38**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Brown**  
**(Coauthors: Assembly Members Calderon, Dodd, Lackey, Steinorth,**  
**and Waldron)**  
(Coauthor: Senator Liu)

February 27, 2015

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 38—Relative to unpaid family caregivers.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 38, as introduced, Brown. California Task Force on Family Caregiving.

This measure would establish the California Task Force on Family Caregiving, to collaborate with a broad range of stakeholders to examine resources available to caregivers and make legislative recommendations regarding the development of an Internet Web site containing resources for caregivers, the enhancement of outreach and education efforts, and the development of a caregiver screening and assessment tool. The task force would be required to submit an interim report to the Legislature no later than January 1, 2017, and a final report no later than July 1, 2018.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, A caregiver can be any relative, spouse, partner,
- 2 friend, or neighbor who has a significant relationship with, and
- 3 who provides a broad range of assistance to, an older person or an
- 4 adult with a chronic or disabling condition; and

1 WHEREAS, Almost three-fourths of older people living in a  
2 typical community who receive personal assistance rely exclusively  
3 on unpaid caregivers for help; and

4 WHEREAS, At present, there is no complete inventory of  
5 caregiving programs available to Californians performing unpaid  
6 caregiving services for an aging or disabled family member, friend,  
7 or neighbor; and

8 WHEREAS, An estimated 5.8 million adults in the state provide  
9 care to adult relatives or friends, which equates to an estimated  
10 3.9 billion hours a year at an estimated value of \$47 billion each  
11 year; and

12 WHEREAS, The economic value of caregivers' unpaid  
13 contributions is equivalent to 1.25 times the total Medi-Cal  
14 spending, and 4.1 times the funding allotted to Medi-Cal long-term  
15 services and supports; and

16 WHEREAS, If family caregivers were no longer available, the  
17 economic cost to California's health care and long-term services  
18 and supports systems would increase astronomically; and

19 WHEREAS, Family support is a key driver in remaining in  
20 one's home and community, but it comes at substantial physical,  
21 emotional, and financial cost to the caregivers, their families, and  
22 to society; and

23 WHEREAS, Fifty-nine percent of all family caregivers are  
24 employed full or part time and family caregivers typically spend  
25 20 hours a week caring for a family member who needs help with  
26 bathing, dressing, and other kinds of personal care, as well as  
27 household tasks such as shopping and managing finances; and

28 WHEREAS, Seventy percent of people with Alzheimer's disease  
29 or a related disorder live at home and need assistance with activities  
30 of daily living; and

31 WHEREAS, Testimony and data acquired during an Assembly  
32 "Faces of Aging" hearing series in 2014, conducted by the  
33 Assembly Committee on Aging and Long-Term Care, documented  
34 variations in the way different populations respond to caregiving  
35 needs and responsibilities, thus informing policymakers of specific  
36 cultural competencies necessary to meet a diverse population's  
37 needs, as well as specific untapped resources and strategies that  
38 could relieve caregiver stress; and

39 WHEREAS, To successfully address the surging population of  
40 older adults who have significant needs for long-term services and

1 supports, the state must develop methods to both encourage and  
2 support families to assist their aging loved ones and develop ways  
3 to recruit and retain a qualified, culturally competent, responsive  
4 in-home care workforce; now, therefore, be it

5 *Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate*  
6 *thereof concurring*, That the California Task Force on Family  
7 Caregiving is hereby established to examine and investigate issues  
8 relative to the challenges faced by family caregivers and  
9 opportunities to improve caregiver support, and to make specific  
10 policy recommendations along with legislative strategies to  
11 advance them; and be it further

12 *Resolved*, That the task force shall do all of the following:

13 (1) Review the current network and how the system, which  
14 provides information about community-based services and  
15 programs to support family caregivers of adults with chronic or  
16 disabling conditions, is set up and to consider improving how  
17 family caregivers access information about the services and  
18 supports available to them so that they can continue in their  
19 caregiving role without being overburdened.

20 (2) Consider the recommendations of other state plans,  
21 including, but not limited to, the Olmstead Plan, the Strategic Plan  
22 for an Aging California Population, the State Plan for Alzheimer's  
23 Disease, and the State Plan on Aging.

24 (3) Determine gaps in services to family caregivers and identify  
25 barriers to participation in current programs.

26 (4) Consult with a broad range of stakeholders, including, but  
27 not limited to, people diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease, adults  
28 with disabling or chronic conditions, family caregivers,  
29 community-based and institutional providers, caregiving  
30 researchers and academicians, formal caregivers, caregiver resource  
31 centers, the California Commission on Aging, and other state  
32 entities.

33 (5) Solicit testimony on the needs of family caregivers, including  
34 the designation of caregivers during care transitions, caregiver  
35 training, assessment of caregiver needs, respite services, medical  
36 leave policies, delegation of tasks to nonmedical aides, and other  
37 policies.

38 (6) Assess information referral and resource sharing systems  
39 used by family caregivers by doing all of the following:

- 1 (A) Compiling an inventory of the resources available to family  
2 caregivers.
- 3 (B) Determining access barriers in the current system.
- 4 (C) Considering the cultural and linguistic factors that impact  
5 caregivers and care recipients who are from diverse populations.
- 6 (D) Comparing consistency of access across the counties.
- 7 (7) Identify best practices in California and in other states and  
8 explore expanding those best practices in caregiving programs to  
9 adult populations that are not currently receiving these services  
10 because they do not qualify based on income, diagnosis, or  
11 disability.
- 12 (8) Make specific legislative recommendations that address, at  
13 a minimum, each of the following:
- 14 (A) The development of an Internet Web site or portal that  
15 contains a list of current resources and supports available in a  
16 family caregiver's community, including the cultural competencies  
17 available, and the contact information of a person or organization  
18 that can help a family caregiver navigate these support services.
- 19 (B) The enhancement of outreach and education efforts by area  
20 agencies on aging and family resource centers.
- 21 (C) The development of a caregiver screening and assessment  
22 tool that will help identify which services and supports a family  
23 caregiver needs, including assessing caregivers of Medi-Cal  
24 recipients and beneficiaries.
- 25 (9) Prepare and provide to the Legislature a report of its findings  
26 and recommendations on or before July 1, 2018; and be it further
- 27 *Resolved*, That the task force shall consist of no more than 20  
28 members, one of whom shall be appointed by the President pro  
29 Tempore of the Senate and one of whom shall be appointed by the  
30 Speaker of the Assembly; and be it further
- 31 *Resolved*, That the two members selected by the President pro  
32 Tempore of the Senate and the Speaker of the Assembly shall  
33 appoint the remaining members of the task force; and be it further
- 34 *Resolved*, That the task force shall be under the direction of a  
35 chair, selected from among its members and appointed by the  
36 members of the task force; and be it further
- 37 *Resolved*, That the task force shall submit one or more reports  
38 to the Legislature and to the Governor, including an interim report  
39 no later than January 1, 2017, and a final report no later than July  
40 1, 2018; and be it further

1     *Resolved*, That the task force is authorized to act until July 31,  
2 2018; and be it further

3     *Resolved*, That the task force shall seek funding, technical  
4 assistance, and other resources from foundations and other  
5 organizations as long as that support would not pose any conflict  
6 of interest and would be deemed as consistent with the goals and  
7 objectives of the task force; and be it further

8     *Resolved*, That the task force may seek staffing support from  
9 the University of Southern California Leonard Davis School of  
10 Gerontology upon receipt of private foundation funding; and be  
11 it further

12     *Resolved*, That members of the task force shall serve without  
13 compensation, but shall receive reimbursement for travel and other  
14 necessary expenses actually incurred in the performance of their  
15 official duties; and be it further

16     *Resolved*, That the task force shall meet every other month; and  
17 be it further

18     *Resolved*, That members of the task force shall be appointed to  
19 serve for the duration of the task force; and be it further

20     *Resolved*, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
21 of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.