

CHAPTER 65**(SJR 85)**

A JOINT RESOLUTION directing the Kentucky Commission on Services and Supports for Individuals with Mental Retardation and Other Developmental Disorders to study and report on issues relating to elderly caregivers who care for adults with mental retardation and other developmental disabilities.

WHEREAS, families, rather than agencies or institutions, are the primary caregivers for adults with mental retardation and developmental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, the economic value of our nation's family and informal caregivers is estimated to be \$257 billion annually; and

WHEREAS, the Older Americans Act Amendments of 2000 established the National Family Caregiver Support Program that calls upon all states to partner with area agencies on aging and local community service providers to ensure that family caregivers have access to necessary supports; and

WHEREAS, the Older Americans Act establishes older persons caring for individuals with mental retardation and developmental disabilities as a priority population for the National Family Caregiver Support Program; and

WHEREAS, there are over 2,100 persons currently on the waiting list for the Supports for Community Living Program; and

WHEREAS, older caregivers are extremely concerned about how to ensure that their loved ones will be properly cared for when they themselves can no longer provide care;

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it resolved by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

Section 1. The Kentucky Commission on Services and Supports for Individuals with Mental Retardation and Other Developmental Disorders is directed to study and report on Kentucky's plan and services under the National Family Caregiver Support Program, the availability of services to older caregivers, the options for continued community care for loved ones when older caregivers can no longer care for them, and other issues deemed relevant to older caregivers by the commission.

Section 2. The Kentucky Commission on Services and Supports for Individuals with Mental Retardation and Other Developmental Disorders shall submit a report to the Interim Joint Committee on Health and Welfare no later than April 15, 2006.

Approved March 11, 2005.