

2008 Iowa Caregivers Month Proclamation Language

Whereas: About 80-90% of the most fundamental care is delivered by NON-LICENSED STAFF: Certified Nurse Assistants, Home Care Aides, Certified Medication, Rehabilitation and Hospice Aides, Adult Day Care and Assisted Living Workers, Personal Assistants, Health Care Technicians, Resident Counselors, Educational Developmental Specialists, and other direct care workers in many care settings; and

Whereas: These individuals deliver compassionate quality care to lowans of all ages who need some level of assistance; and

Whereas: These individuals often become extensions of the families of those they care for and a source of respite for Iowa's family caregivers; and

Whereas: Over 700,000 Iowa Baby Boomers will reach retirement age by the year 2030 and 40% will require some form of long term care; and

Whereas: There is already a dwindling pool of direct care workers to meet the growing demand; and

Whereas: Turnover in the direct care field is unacceptably high. Annual turnover among CNAs (Certified Nurse Aides), has been estimated as high as 75%; and

Whereas: Turnover is caused, in part, by LOW WAGES, the unavailability of adequate health care and retirement benefits; and AN INADEQUATE AMOUNT OF INITIAL AND CONTINUING TRAINING; AND

WHEREAS: HF 2539 PASSED BY THE IOWA GENERAL ASSEMBLY AND SIGNED INTO LAW ON MAY 13, 2008 ADDRESSES HEALTH CARE, COMPENSATION AND TRAINING ISSUES; AND

Whereas: Access to high quality long term care services depends upon a high quality and stable workforce; and

Whereas: Each of us may need the assistance of a direct care worker at some point in our lives; and

Whereas: The importance that these direct care workers have on the quality of life of lowans, the economy, and other aspects of our society often goes unrecognized;

Now, therefore: I, Governor Chester J. Culver, do hereby proclaim the month of June 2008 as Iowa Caregivers Month and urge all citizens to honor and support direct care workers in the community.