

By: Representative Williams

HOUSE RESOLUTION

COMMENDING THE ARKANSAS AGING INITIATIVE FOR ITS
STATEWIDE PROGRAM OF COMPREHENSIVE GERIATRIC HEALTH
CARE AND EDUCATION FOR SENIOR CITIZENS LIVING IN
RURAL ARKANSAS.

Subtitle

COMMENDING THE ARKANSAS AGING INITIATIVE
FOR ITS CONTINUING COMMITMENT TO
ARKANSAS'S SENIOR CITIZENS.

WHEREAS, the Eighty-third General Assembly of the State of Arkansas provided money from the tobacco Master Settlement Agreement to fund a statewide program of specialized health care services for seniors living in rural Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, the Arkansas Aging Initiative, a program of the Donald W. Reynolds Institute on Aging, University of Arkansas for Medical Sciences, formed partnerships with local and regional hospitals, area health education centers, the area agencies on aging, the Division of Aging and Adult Services of the Department of Human Services, local communities, and colleges and universities; and

WHEREAS, the Arkansas Aging Initiative, using these partnerships, established the comprehensive regional centers on aging: Delta Center on Aging (West Memphis), South Arkansas Center on Aging (El Dorado), West Central Center on Aging (Fort Smith), Center on Aging - Northeast (Jonesboro), South Central Center on Aging (Pine Bluff), Schmieding Center



for Senior Health and Education (Springdale), Texarkana Regional Center on Aging (Texarkana), Oaklawn Senior Health Care Center (Hot Springs), and Mruk Family Center on Aging (Mountain Home); and

WHEREAS, the Arkansas Aging Initiative designed a model program to deliver specialized interprofessional geriatric healthcare and education programs to senior citizens residing in rural Arkansas; and

WHEREAS, the Arkansas Aging Initiative has become a national model and is being replicated in the State of Oklahoma with a grant from the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation; and

WHEREAS, the Arkansas Aging Initiative continues to address the needs of seniors by using a grant from the Donald W. Reynolds Foundation to replicate the Schmieding Home Caregiver Program at other regional centers on aging for family members and persons needing specialized training to care for seniors; and

WHEREAS, the Arkansas Aging Initiative provides specialized interprofessional geriatric healthcare and education programs through a network of comprehensive regional centers on aging within sixty (60) miles of every Arkansas senior,

NOW THEREFORE,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE EIGHTY-NINTH GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ARKANSAS:

THAT the House of Representatives recognizes and commends Dr. Claudia Beverly and the Arkansas Aging Initiative leadership team for their efforts in designing, implementing, and operating the comprehensive program of specialized health services for our senior citizens and their families.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED THAT the House of Representatives commends the participating hospital administrators, geriatricians, nurses, educators, and other members of the health profession teams working in these rural areas for their commitment and devotion to improving the quality of life for older

Arkansans and their families.