

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

145th GENERAL ASSEMBLY

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

Older Americans Month

May 2009

WHEREAS, Delaware is a state in which 210,000 citizens age 55 and over make their home; and

WHEREAS, older adults in Delaware and throughout the nation are an increasing population with evolving needs; and

WHEREAS, older Delawareans are valuable members of our society who enhance our communities and personal lives; and

WHEREAS, the increasing number of baby boomers reaching traditional retirement age highlights the need for increased support of older adults; and

WHEREAS, our older citizens of today and tomorrow promise to be among the most active and involved older adult populations in our nation's history; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of Delaware and all U.S. communities to work collaboratively to address older adults' unique health and long-term care challenges; and

WHEREAS, it is crucial that Delaware modernize systems of care to help empower older Americans and give them more control over their own lives; and

WHEREAS, Delaware's senior centers and senior service providers make it possible for citizens to age successfully, living well today to assure a better tomorrow; and

WHEREAS, Delaware can improve older citizens' overall quality of life by helping them:

Make behavioral changes in their lifestyles that can reduce the risk of disease, disability, and injury;

Obtain the tools they need to make informed decisions about, and gain better access to, existing health and long-term care options in their communities;

Have more options to avoid placement in nursing homes and remain at home as long as possible.

NOW THEREFORE, Members of the House of Representatives of Delaware do hereby proclaim May 2009 to be Older Americans Month. We urge everyone to take time this May to honor our older adults and the professionals, family members, and citizens who care for them. Our efforts can improve the lives of our older citizens and help pave the way for future generations.