



PRESS RELEASE

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Month of November Recognizes Family Caregivers

COLUMBIA, S.C. – The month of November is nationally known as “National Family Caregivers Month,” recognizing the thousands of individuals who care for a family member or loved one. In South Carolina alone, there are over 770,000 family caregivers who provide nearly 737 million hours of unpaid care each year, saving our state an estimated \$7.4 billion annually.

According to a recent study conducted by AARP in South Carolina, 55% of our state’s residents are caring for an elderly family member or loved one, or have in the past, and 53% say that it is very likely they will become caregivers in the next five years. U.S. Census projections indicate that the number of seniors in South Carolina is expected to climb exponentially over the coming years, reaching close to two million by the year 2030.

“Family caregivers in South Carolina need to know that we’re thinking of them and appreciate the invaluable role that they fill on a daily basis,” said Lieutenant Governor Yancey McGill. “It is important that we highlight their many contributions and sacrifices, and I applaud Governor Haley for proclaiming November as ‘Family Caregiver Month’ right here in our own state.”

Options for family caregivers in South Carolina are available through the Lieutenant Governor’s Office on Aging. The Family Caregiver Support Program provides services to help caregivers with information, training, support groups, finding ways to take a break from caregiving, and other services designed to make caregiving less stressful and more rewarding. The Family Caregiver Support Program assists:

- unpaid family caregivers of adults age 60 and over;
- caregivers of adults with Alzheimer’s disease;
- seniors (55 or older) raising children under 19; and
- seniors caring for an adult child with a disability.

For more information on National Family Caregivers Month, in addition to support resources and a list of ways to prevent caregiver burnout, please visit the Lieutenant Governor’s Office on Aging’s website, www.aging.sc.gov, or call 1-800-868-9095.

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