



Executive Department
State of Idaho

The Office of the Governor
Proclamation

State Capitol
Boise

WHEREAS, family caregivers are an essential part of Idaho’s healthcare system – valued community members who are the backbone of Idaho’s long-term care system, providing uncompensated support and care to ill or disabled family members or loved ones; and

WHEREAS, family caregivers greatly improve the quality of life for their loved ones, spending an average of 20 hours per week providing care, with many caring for their loved ones around the clock; and

WHEREAS, across Idaho there are more than 300,000 family caregivers who give their hearts every day, helping their parents, spouses, children with disabilities and other loved ones who stay at home; and

WHEREAS, Idaho family caregivers provide 201 million hours of unpaid care annually at an estimated value of \$2 billion; and

WHEREAS, more than half of care recipients are under the age of 75 and almost one-third are under the age of 50, illustrating that caregiving is a multigenerational issue in family life; and

WHEREAS, more than two-thirds of family caregivers are employed either full or part time, resulting in stress from uncompensated time off, lost work, sacrificed benefits, and economic hardship on both caregiver employees and their employers; and

WHEREAS, the accelerated growth of the elderly population, accompanied by an increase in occurrences of Alzheimer’s disease, is creating an unprecedented demand on services, communities, and families; and

WHEREAS, family caregivers are the only people who are present with patients in all care settings, often managing overwhelming schedules and completing complex medical activities; and

WHEREAS, considering caregivers’ increased risk for health problems resulting from chronic stress, it is important for family caregivers to take a respite to recharge in order to protect the family caregiver’s own health, strengthen family relationships, prevent burn-out, and greatly extend a care recipient’s time at home; and

WHEREAS, the Idaho Caregiver Alliance and Idaho Caregiver Task Force are working to enhance respite services and other caregiver supports in Idaho;

NOW, THEREFORE, I, C.L. “BUTCH OTTER, Governor of the State of Idaho, do hereby proclaim November 2015 to be

FAMILY CAREGIVERS MONTH

in Idaho.



IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunto set my hand and caused to be affixed the Great Seal of the State of Idaho at the Capitol in Boise on this 1st day of November, in the year of our Lord two thousand and fifteen and of the Independence of the United States of America the two hundred fortieth and of the Statehood of Idaho the one hundred twenty-sixth.

C.L. “BUTCH” OTTER
GOVERNOR

LAWRENCE DENNEY
SECRETARY OF STATE