

ELDER CARE

WHEREAS, just over 10 million Americans, or nearly one-third of the elderly population, need some type of in-home long term care;

WHEREAS, of the nearly 9 million elderly people living at home, the majority have modest financial resources, lack private long-term care insurance, and thus rely on help from family caregivers who are predominantly women;

WHEREAS, the burdens on workingwomen will intensify with the aging of the baby boomers, and as women continue to delay childbearing and increase their labor force participation a greater number of them will find themselves “sandwiched” between the competing demands of work, raising their own children, and caring for their elderly family members;

WHEREAS, workingwomen pay a price for informal elder caregiving as over half of all adult caregivers work full-time and many must take time out of the work force, cut back hours, and will lose a significant amount of lifetime wages and pension wealth due to caring for elderly family members;

WHEREAS, the Senate Joint Economic Committee held a hearing on elder care in May, 2007 to discuss the issue, its growing impact on families, and what federal laws and proposed legislation exists to address it;

WHEREAS, workingwomen are at the heart of the long-term care system and they need Business and Professional Women/USA’s (BPW/USA) advocacy support to address their physical, emotional and financial challenges; therefore, be it

RESOLVED, that BPW/USA will support the issue of elder care being addressed in Congress, and will advocate for federal legislation to be introduced that will include provisions that assist in the role workingwomen play as caregivers for their elderly family members.