



Executive Department  
State of Idaho

## The Office of the Governor Proclamation

State Capital  
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 1<sup>st</sup> 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.*