Support Illinois Family Caregivers

SUPPORT HOUSE BILL 2974 (REP. MOELLER)

Across Illinois family caregivers assist their parents, spouses and other loved ones so they can live at home—where they want to be—and out of costly, taxpayer-funded nursing homes. These family caregivers help with bathing, dressing, transportation and much more. Many also pay for expensive care to help their loved ones. AARP recently surveyed Illinois registered voters age 40-plus about caring for their families and the cost of being a caregiver. Here’s what we learned:

The majority of Illinois family caregivers pay for expenses out of their own pocket to care for a loved one.

They use their money to help with:

- Transportation: 79%
- Assistive Technology: 49%
- Home Modifications: 48%
- Home health aide: 28%
- Respite Care: 17%
- Adult Day Care: 9%

According to a national study, family caregivers spend an average of nearly $7,000 each year on costly care for their loved ones—that’s nearly 20% of their income.

Family caregivers caring for a loved one with dementia, on average spend over $10,600 a year.

In Illinois, 1.5 million family caregivers provide 1.4 billion hours of unpaid care valued at $18.5 billion annually.

AARP Illinois urges state lawmakers to pass HB 2974—Family Caregiver Income Tax Credit—to bring some financial relief for Illinois’ family caregivers.

Sources: November 2018 survey of 1,100 Illinois Registered Voters Age 40-plus. Margin of sample error is ±2.95%; aarp.org/costofcaring; aarp.org/valuing

https://doi.org/10.26419/res.00259.049