**Paid Family Caregiving Resolution**

**What it does:**

* This resolution was filed by Senator Yager as SJR 0848 at the TN General Assembly
* It urges the state to develop a comprehensive paid family caregiver program

**What happens now:**

* In almost all instances, caregivers are prohibited from being paid to provide care to a loved one with a disability if they live in the same residence
* While there are some exceptions, and TennCare argues that prohibitions on paid family caregiving isn’t their policy, very few caregivers in Tennessee are paid for providing care
* A report from the Tennessee Office of the Comptroller found that the state is facing a “critical shortage” of direct support professionals (DSP’s) and other frontline workers to provide care
* Many supports and services laid out in an individual’s Independent Support Plan (ISP) are not fulfilled due to lack of workers and Medicaid-participating providers
* Family caregivers face higher rates of financial insecurity, lower rates of full-time employment and higher rates of physical and mental health need stemming from the stressors of caregiving

**Precedents:**

* 33 states allow payment for caregiving services to legally responsible caregivers (parents, spouses, etc.)
* Several states have formal programs for training, supporting and paying family caregivers through their Medicaid waivers

**Solutions:**

* Establish a formal paid family caregiving program through TennCare or the Tennessee Department of Health
  + Offer supports such as training, ongoing monitoring, payroll services and respite through the program
* Note: this is a resolution, not a bill. Passage of a resolution signals support and intent from the General Assembly, but does not establish a law or require any state or private entity to act.

**Obstacles:**

* TennCare currently restricts payment to family caregivers because they believe that this care is a “natural support,” and they believe that paying for “natural supports” is not financially feasible
* Passage of a resolution does not make passage of a bill automatic – a follow up to this resolution may be difficult to pass