



State of New York
Executive Chamber

Proclamation

Whereas, New Yorkers are well known for their compassion for their fellow human beings and, today, there are an estimated 2.2 million New Yorkers serving as "caregivers" who provide approximately 80% of the long term care for family members and other loved ones who are chronically ill, elderly, or disabled; and

Whereas, family caregivers are not only formal family members but often friends, neighbors or others who tend to individuals in matters of personal assistance, providing help with such tasks as bathing, dressing and grooming, as well as shopping, cooking and cleaning; and

Whereas, the need for family caregivers is rising and will continue to grow as the life expectancy increases and New York's population of aging citizens lives longer; and

Whereas, the concept of caring for those with special needs reflects family and community values at the highest levels, as family caregivers provide a truly valuable service that allows many New Yorkers to remain in their homes and communities of choice rather than seek care in an institutional setting; and

Whereas, individuals engaged in family care giving should have our support and assistance as they face challenges affecting their own health, finances, and job security; and

Whereas, family caregivers deserve our gratitude and respect for their efforts as they must often balance their responsibilities to their immediate families with their jobs - and while there are demands in caring for others, they remain selfless in sharing themselves and their personal time with those in their care; and

Whereas, November is National Family Caregivers' Month, providing an opportunity for New Yorkers to join with all Americans in recognizing those who ensure compassionate care and sustenance for many family, friends and loved ones who, themselves, appreciate the kindness and respect shown by their caregivers which enables them to live with the dignity we all deserve;

Now, Therefore, I, David A. Paterson, Governor of the State of New York, do hereby proclaim November 2009 as

CAREGIVERS' MONTH

in the Empire State.



Given under my hand and the Privy Seal of the State at the Capitol in the City of Albany this twenty-ninth day of October in the year two thousand nine.

David A. Paterson

Governor

James Schultz
Secretary to the Governor