

Template for language emphasizing family values and fiscal responsibilities

This template uses language that emphasizes family values and fiscal responsibilities. It will be most useful with audiences that want to stress those points. Submission format is set up as a memo, but it could also be the base for an email message sent to the appropriate person. This sample is based on a submission to the California party. When you prepare your own resolution, either delete the facts that are specific to California, or include specific facts for your state.

To: [California Republican Platform Committee]

From: [Name of person submitting the memo]

RE: Addition of Family Caregiver language to the party platform

I appreciate the opportunity to submit a suggestion for the [appropriate state party] platform. Consistent with the party's commitment to strong family values, I respectfully suggest that issues relevant to home family caregivers be added to the state party platform. The party should recognize the importance of caregiving for sick and frail elders and individuals with disabilities. Supporting strong families helps keep ill loved ones at home longer, reduces public expenses and improves quality of life.

Some or all of the following themes may be appropriate for inclusion.

Fiscal Responsibility

- Our state must show fiscal responsibility in response to an expected increase in the need for caregiving. The financial consequences of an aging population threaten to overwhelm both state and family budgets.
- Both the state and individual counties should analyze their population demographic trends to determine both current and future service requirements for care recipients and caregivers, and understand the financial implications of coming demands.

Family-friendly Business Practices

- Our party recognizes the important role that businesses play in providing assistance to employees that are caring for an elderly family member.
- As appropriate, we support compensation of that value through tax credits or other means when firms provide or underwrite adult day care services or other supportive services.
- We encourage employers to establish policies that recognize the impact that caregiving can have on workers, and encourage employers to find ways to support their workers during difficult family times.

Create Communities That Care

- Home family caregivers must be able to get training and additional help when they need it. For example, at the time of hospital discharge, the home family caregiving needs of the patient could be discussed with caregivers and arrangements could be made for caregiver training.

- Expand the availability of respite care services. Explore the use of volunteer respite providers through a variety of sources, including faith-based groups, nursing programs, and community organizations.
- Increase awareness of caregiving as a health risk factor that warrants attention as a Public Health issue, and encourage health professionals to acknowledge and address that issue.
- We support the use of home caregiving technology that enables elders to receive care in their own homes while lowering the cost of that care. Remote technology can benefit anyone and has special benefits for rural caregivers. Adoption of remote technology may require giving healthcare providers more flexibility in choosing their preferred methods of care.
- Encourage the creation of volunteer “Caregiver Corps” to provide non-medical assistance and companionship to frail elders. Programs like these can be set up at little or no cost with no need for government involvement. Caregiving committees can be sponsored by faith-based organizations, private companies, non-profit organizations, and local communities. Every American should serve his or her country. Volunteer caregiving is as valid a means of service as any other.

These suggestions are part of a more detailed policy review done by the Family Caregiver Platform Project (caregivercorps.org), a non-partisan national effort working to raise awareness of the important role families play in care for their frail elders.

Sincerely,

[Name of person making submission]

State Contact Person

Family Caregiver Platform Project

caregivercorps.org