



WHEREAS, there are more than 1.5 million individuals living in 16,000 nursing homes; and one million individuals living in 50,000 board and care/assisted living facilities in the U.S.; and,

WHEREAS, the federal Nursing Home Reform Act of 1987 guarantees residents their individual rights in order to promote and maintain their dignity and autonomy; and,

WHEREAS, all residents should be aware of their rights so they may be empowered to live with dignity and self-determination; and,

WHEREAS, we wish to honor and celebrate these citizens, to recognize their rich individuality, and to reaffirm their right to vote and participate politically, including the right to have a say in their care; and,

WHEREAS, individuals and groups across the country will be celebrating Residents' Rights Month with the theme – ***“My Vote Matters”*** – to emphasize the importance of affirming these rights through facility practices, public policy and resident-centered decision-making.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Gaston County Board of Commissioners proclaims the month of October 2016 as

LONG-TERM CARE RESIDENTS' RIGHTS MONTH

and encourage all citizens to join in these important observances.

Tom Keigher, Chairman

Chad Brown

Tracy L. Philbeck

Joe D. Carpenter

Mickey Price

Allen R. Fraley

Jason Williams, Vice-Chairman