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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 1080 Session of  
2020

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INTRODUCED BY SAMUELSON, DAY, KORTZ, MADDEN, SCHLEGEL CULVER,  
BIZZARRO, JAMES, McCLINTON, HILL-EVANS, LONGIETTI, BURNS,  
BOBACK, McNEILL, RYAN, KINSEY, THOMAS, PICKETT, T. DAVIS,  
BERNSTINE, MURT, GALLOWAY, ROWE, HOWARD, FREEMAN, ULLMAN,  
BROWN, VITALI, ROTHMAN, SANCHEZ, DeLUCA, MILLARD, WILLIAMS,  
WEBSTER, SCHLOSSBERG AND GREEN, OCTOBER 22, 2020

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INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,  
OCTOBER 22, 2020

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A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of November 2020 as "National Alzheimer's  
2 Disease Awareness and Family Caregivers Month" in  
3 Pennsylvania.

4 WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is an irreversible degenerative  
5 brain disorder that, as yet, cannot be prevented, slowed or  
6 cured; and

7 WHEREAS, Alzheimer's robs its victims of their memories and  
8 their ability to walk, talk and perform everyday tasks, which  
9 impacts their ability to live independently; and

10 WHEREAS, More than 5 million Americans have been diagnosed  
11 with Alzheimer's or other dementias, and an estimated 200,000 of  
12 those Americans are under 65 years of age; and

13 WHEREAS, Unless a cure is found, more than 14 million  
14 Americans will have the disease by 2050; and

15 WHEREAS, Alzheimer's is the sixth leading cause of death in  
16 the United States, where 4,064 Pennsylvanians died from

1 Alzheimer's in 2019; and

2 WHEREAS, This year marks the fifth year that the total  
3 payments for caring for individuals living with Alzheimer's or  
4 other dementias exceeded a quarter of a trillion dollars at \$305  
5 billion; and

6 WHEREAS, More than 400,000 of our fellow Pennsylvanians are  
7 suffering from Alzheimer's or other dementias and many of these  
8 individuals are being cared for, at home, by family and close  
9 friends; and

10 WHEREAS, In Pennsylvania alone, more than 677,000 of these  
11 unpaid informal caregivers provided an estimated 771 million  
12 hours of care which was valued at more than \$10.1 billion in  
13 2019; and

14 WHEREAS, While unpaid caregivers say they take on the task  
15 out of love and find the work rewarding, the stress of  
16 caregiving puts a strain on the caregiver's health, well-being  
17 and finances as many of those caregivers are forced to leave  
18 their jobs to care for a loved one; and

19 WHEREAS, Seventy percent of total lifetime costs of caring  
20 for an individual living with Alzheimer's or another dementia is  
21 borne by family members; and

22 WHEREAS, Until there is a cure for Alzheimer's and other  
23 dementias, we need the best caregiving and caregiver support;  
24 and

25 WHEREAS, The Alzheimer's Association's Greater Pennsylvania  
26 Chapter and Delaware Valley Chapter, through dedicated staff and  
27 volunteers, provide support and education to assist informal  
28 caregivers and fund research to prevent, treat and eventually  
29 conquer this disease; and

30 WHEREAS, The Alzheimer's Association's Greater Pennsylvania

1 Chapter and Delaware Valley Chapter, through dedicated staff and  
2 volunteers, organize the world's largest event to raise  
3 awareness and money for Alzheimer's research, care and support  
4 with walks taking place in Harrisburg, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh,  
5 Erie, State College and more; and

6 WHEREAS, The Alzheimer's Association supports competency-  
7 based dementia training across the continuum of care, including  
8 direct care workers and public safety personnel, as a way to  
9 enhance the well-being of care partners and recipients alike;  
10 therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the  
12 month of November 2020 as "National Alzheimer's Disease  
13 Awareness and Family Caregivers Month" in Pennsylvania; and be  
14 it further

15 RESOLVED, That this resolution seek to help raise awareness  
16 of Alzheimer's and other dementias so that individuals and their  
17 families and loved ones are comfortable in talking with their  
18 doctors about early warning signs of Alzheimer's and other  
19 dementias; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the Commonwealth recognize the challenges  
21 facing those who have been diagnosed with Alzheimer's or other  
22 dementias, and it is the Commonwealth's wish for them to know  
23 that they are not alone in their journey; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That the Commonwealth acknowledge the dedication  
25 and unconditional love our unpaid caregivers display every day  
26 as they care for individuals who have been diagnosed with  
27 Alzheimer's or other dementias.