A RESOLUTION

Recognizing the month of November 2018 as "National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness and Family Caregivers Month" in Pennsylvania.

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

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

WHEREAS, Approximately 5.7 million Americans have been diagnosed with Alzheimer's or a related disorder, and an estimated 200,000 of those Americans are under 65 years of age;
WHEREAS, More than 1 million Pennsylvanians are directly impacted in some fashion by Alzheimer's disease or a related disorder; and

WHEREAS, Unless a cure is found, more than 16 million Americans will have the disease by 2050; and

WHEREAS, This year marks the second time total payments for caring for individuals living with Alzheimer's or related disorders exceeded a quarter of a trillion dollars at $277 billion; and

WHEREAS, Over 400,000 of our fellow citizens are suffering from Alzheimer's or a related disorder and many of these individuals are being cared for, at home, by family and close friends; and

WHEREAS, In Pennsylvania alone, more than 675,000 of these unpaid informal caregivers provided an estimated 769 million hours of care which was valued at more than $9.7 billion in 2017; and

WHEREAS, Nationally, in 2017, more than 16.1 million of these unpaid informal caregivers provided an estimated 18.4 billion hours of care, which was valued at more than $323 billion; and

WHEREAS, While unpaid caregivers say they take on the task out of love and find the work rewarding, the stress of caregiving puts a strain on their health and well-being; and

WHEREAS, Caregiving also puts a strain on caregivers' finances, as many of them are forced to leave their jobs to take care of a loved one; and

WHEREAS, Through early diagnosis and talking with patients and their families we can afford these individuals the dignity and opportunity to be involved in the development of their
future care plans; and

WHEREAS, Until there is a cure, we need the best in
caregiving and caregiver support; and

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

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

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
month of November 2018 as "National Alzheimer's Disease
Awareness and Family Caregivers Month" in Pennsylvania; and be
it further

RESOLVED, That this resolution seek to help raise awareness
of Alzheimer's and related disorders so individuals and their
families and loved ones are comfortable in talking with their
doctors about early warning signs of the disease; and be it
further

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

RESOLVED, That the Commonwealth acknowledge the dedication
and unconditional love our unpaid caregivers display every day
as they care for individuals who have been diagnosed with
Alzheimer's or related disorders.