
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 603 Session of
2017

INTRODUCED BY SAMUELSON, WATSON, KORTZ, HENNESSEY, BARBIN,
BOBACK, R. BROWN, V. BROWN, BURNS, CALTAGIRONE, DEAN, DeLUCA,
DiGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, DRISCOLL, DUSH, ENGLISH, EVERETT,
GILLEN, GOODMAN, M. K. KELLER, LONGIETTI, MACKENZIE, MARSICO,
MILLARD, B. MILLER, MURT, NEILSON, O'NEILL, PASHINSKI,
PICKETT, READSHAW, ROEBUCK, RYAN, SAINATO, SCHLOSSBERG,
SCHWEYER, SONNEY, STURLA, THOMAS, TOOIL, WARD AND WARREN,
NOVEMBER 14, 2017

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
NOVEMBER 14, 2017

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of November 2017 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 of their ability to walk, talk and perform everyday tasks, which
9 impacts their ability to live independently; and

10 WHEREAS, Five and one-half million Americans have been
11 diagnosed with Alzheimer's or a related disorder, and an
12 estimated 200,000 of those Americans are under 65 years of age;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, More than 1 million Pennsylvanians are directly
15 impacted in some fashion by Alzheimer's disease or a related

1 disorder; and

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

4 WHEREAS, This year marks the first time total payments for
5 caring for individuals living with Alzheimer's or related
6 disorders exceeded a quarter of a trillion dollars at \$259
7 billion; and

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

12 WHEREAS, In Pennsylvania alone, more than 673,000 of these
13 unpaid informal caregivers provided an estimated 766 million
14 hours of care which was valued at more than \$9.6 billion in
15 2016; and

16 WHEREAS, Nationally, in 2016, more than 15.9 million of these
17 unpaid informal caregivers provided an estimated 18.2 billion
18 hours of care, which was valued at more than \$230.1 billion; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

10 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
11 month of November 2017 as "National Alzheimer's Disease
12 Awareness and Family Caregivers Month" in Pennsylvania; and be
13 it further

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

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

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