

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 1080 Session of
2020

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

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

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.