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House of Representatives
Commonwealth of Pennsylvania
Harrisburg

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MEMORANDUM

TO: All House Members

FROM: Rep. Doug Reichley
Rep. Bill Kortz

DATE: October 17, 2011

SUBJECT: Co-Sponsor Memo: Resolution Recognizing the Month of November 2011 as "Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month"

In the near future, we will be introducing a resolution recognizing November 2011 as "Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

Alzheimer's disease is a degenerative brain disorder. It destroys cells and nerves, particularly those responsible for memory, by disrupting the transmitters which carry messages in the brain. The destruction of these cells affects a person's ability to remember, speak, think and make decisions.

The Pennsylvania Public Policy Coalition of the Alzheimer's Association (PPCAA) estimates as many as 400,000 Pennsylvanians are living with Alzheimer's disease or related dementia. Since 7 out of 10 of these individuals are being cared for at home, typically by several family members or friends, Alzheimer's disease and related dementias personally touch approximately 1 in 12 Pennsylvanians.

Alzheimer's disease also influences our economy. Alzheimer's disease-related costs to Medicare, Medicaid and businesses in Pennsylvania exceed \$6 billion annually, according to PPCAA. These costs will increase, as the average age of our state's population continues to rise.

Due to its tragic personal toll and associated financial costs, it is imperative we continue to raise awareness in order to find a treatment and cure for Alzheimer's disease, while continuing to support family caregivers whenever possible. As such, we will be introducing a resolution recognizing November 2011 as "Alzheimer's Awareness Month in Pennsylvania".

If you would like to be a co-sponsor of this resolution, please contact Kendra Wiederhold at 787-1000 or kwiederh@pahousegop.com.