A RESOLUTION

Urging the Secretary of Health to designate Alzheimer's disease and other dementia disorders as a public health issue.

WHEREAS, It is the intent of the House of Representatives to increase awareness of Alzheimer's disease and other dementia disorders, address cognitive impairment, promote brain health and meet the needs of caregivers; and

WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease has been traditionally seen as an aging issue, although more and more Pennsylvanians are being diagnosed with early-onset well before reaching 60 years of age; and

WHEREAS, The onset of Alzheimer's disease cannot yet be stopped or reversed; and

WHEREAS, Early detection and diagnosis give people with dementia and their families a better chance of receiving and benefiting from treatment, care and support services and allow them to better prepare for medical, legal and financial
decisions in the future; and

WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is the sixth leading cause of death in adults 18 years of age or older in the United States; and

WHEREAS, Currently there are no definitive interventions or successful treatments to prevent or cure Alzheimer's disease; and

WHEREAS, The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC) has declared that it is essential to promote early detection, educate the public about risk reduction and continue accurately tracking the diagnosis of Alzheimer's disease and other dementia disorders; and

WHEREAS, In conjunction with the CDC, the Department of Health annually conducts the Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) survey to gather Statewide public health data; and

WHEREAS, In the 2014 BRFSS survey, 10.2%, or 1 in 10, of Pennsylvania residents 45 years of age or older reported an increase in confusion or worsening memory loss and approximately half had not discussed these cognitive concerns with a health care provider; and

WHEREAS, Caregivers often suffer from stress, depression, increased illnesses and chronic health issues providing care to their loved ones for long periods of time saving taxpayers billions of dollars in the process; and

WHEREAS, We recognize the important responsibility the Department of Health has in promoting and encouraging healthy behaviors among the general public, increasing early detection and diagnosis of disease and disability, reducing risk of illnesses and diseases, educating the health care workforce and
monitoring the health of the State; therefore be it

RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives urge the
Secretary of Health to designate Alzheimer's disease and other
dementia diseases as a public health issue; and be it further

RESOLVED, That a copy of this resolution be transmitted to
the Secretary of Health with this final clause omitted from such
copy.