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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 129 Session of  
2021

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INTRODUCED BY COLLETT, SABATINA, BROWNE, BROOKS, J. WARD,  
MARTIN, FONTANA, KEARNEY, HUGHES, BARTOLOTTA, PHILLIPS-HILL,  
MUTH, MENSCH, VOGEL, CAPPELLETTI, YUDICHAK, STREET, COSTA,  
COMITTA AND SANTARSIERO, JUNE 7, 2021

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REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, JUNE 7, 2021

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A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of June 2021 as "Alzheimer's and Brain  
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The month of June is "Alzheimer's and Brain  
4 Awareness Month," when the Alzheimer's Association seeks support  
5 to raise awareness of this debilitating disease and the need to  
6 increase efforts to combat its human and economic costs and its  
7 public health burden throughout this Commonwealth; and

8 WHEREAS, The summer solstice, June 20, 2021, has been  
9 declared "The Longest Day," with teams around the world coming  
10 together to honor the strength, passion and endurance of  
11 individuals facing Alzheimer's disease with a day of activity  
12 and advocacy to carry out the slogan "The Day With the Most  
13 Light is the Day We Fight"; and

14 WHEREAS, Every individual in our communities is at risk for  
15 developing Alzheimer's disease, a fatal disease that cannot be  
16 prevented, treated or even slowed; and

17 WHEREAS, It is estimated that more than 6 million Americans

1 of all ages and more than 280,000 Pennsylvanians 65 years of age  
2 and older are living with Alzheimer's disease; and

3 WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease can affect racial and ethnic  
4 groups differently; and

5 WHEREAS, African Americans are twice as likely and Hispanics  
6 are one and one-half times as likely to have Alzheimer's or  
7 other dementias than Caucasian individuals; and

8 WHEREAS, Affected individuals may face unique challenges in  
9 receiving care; and

10 WHEREAS, Barring the development of medical breakthroughs,  
11 the number of people 65 years of age or older with Alzheimer's  
12 disease may almost triple to nearly 14 million by 2050; and

13 WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is the sixth leading cause of  
14 death in the United States and this Commonwealth; and

15 WHEREAS, One in three seniors dies with Alzheimer's or other  
16 dementias; and

17 WHEREAS, During 2020, more than 11 million Americans provided  
18 15.3 billion hours of unpaid care to individuals with  
19 Alzheimer's and other dementias; and

20 WHEREAS, That unpaid care had an estimated economic value of  
21 \$257 billion; and

22 WHEREAS, In 2020, Pennsylvania had an estimated 500,000  
23 Alzheimer's and dementia caregivers providing 622 million hours  
24 of unpaid care valued at more than \$9.726 billion; and

25 WHEREAS, Persons with Alzheimer's and other dementias require  
26 more support and resources as cognitive, behavioral and physical  
27 functioning worsens over time, placing enormous burdens on  
28 government budgets and out-of-pocket expenses; and

29 WHEREAS, The lifetime cost of care for persons with dementia  
30 is nearly double the cost of care for persons without dementia;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, In 2021, Alzheimer's and other dementias will cost  
3 the nation \$355 billion; and

4 WHEREAS, Total payments for health care, long-term care and  
5 hospice care are expected to reach more than \$1.1 trillion by  
6 2050; and

7 WHEREAS, Since the Alzheimer's and dementia continuum spans  
8 decades, it provides many opportunities to model public health  
9 approaches to change outcomes, expand early detection and  
10 diagnosis and improve safety and quality of care for people  
11 living with cognitive impairment, all while attending to a  
12 caregiver's health and well-being; and

13 WHEREAS, Eighty-two percent of seniors say it is important to  
14 have their thinking skills or memory checked by a primary care  
15 doctor, but only 16% of seniors report receiving regular  
16 cognitive assessments, underscoring the need for older adults  
17 and doctors to proactively discuss cognitive health during  
18 routine exams; and

19 WHEREAS, These discussions could lead to early diagnosis and  
20 promote better care planning and quality of life; and

21 WHEREAS, Researchers in this Commonwealth and around the  
22 world continue their efforts to develop scientific breakthroughs  
23 and public health interventions that could one day bring about a  
24 world without Alzheimer's disease; and

25 WHEREAS, The individuals, families, friends and caregivers  
26 dealing with Alzheimer's disease and the researchers who are  
27 seeking a cause or cure should be recognized; and

28 WHEREAS, The Alzheimer's Association, by raising funds and  
29 promoting awareness of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias,  
30 is improving the quality of life for individuals living with

1 Alzheimer's disease and their caregivers; therefore be it  
2 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the month of June 2021 as  
3 "Alzheimer's Disease and Brain Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania;  
4 and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That, in an effort to raise awareness of the  
6 disease's prevalence, the Senate:

7 (1) recognize that Alzheimer's is a public health crisis  
8 that impacts everyone throughout this Commonwealth and that  
9 early detection and diagnosis is paramount;

10 (2) encourage residents of this Commonwealth to wear  
11 purple throughout the month of June in support of family and  
12 friends living with the disease; and

13 (3) encourage residents of this Commonwealth to  
14 participate in an Alzheimer's Association "The Longest Day"  
15 local activity.