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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 969 Session of  
2018

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INTRODUCED BY SCHLEGEL CULVER, SOLOMON, PICKETT, LONGIETTI,  
NEILSON, DRISCOLL, JAMES, RYAN, DAY, YOUNGBLOOD, KAUFFMAN,  
DAVIS, D. MILLER, HILL-EVANS, BARRAR, J. McNEILL, SAYLOR,  
WATSON, MILLARD, THOMAS, DEAN, STAATS, ROEBUCK, GILLEN AND  
DELOZIER, JUNE 8, 2018

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REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, JUNE 8, 2018

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A RESOLUTION

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

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

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

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

13 WHEREAS, Early detection and diagnosis give people with  
14 dementia and their families a better chance of receiving and  
15 benefiting from treatment, care and support services and allow  
16 them to better prepare for medical, legal and financial

1 decisions in the future; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

26 WHEREAS, We recognize the important responsibility the  
27 Department of Health has in promoting and encouraging healthy  
28 behaviors among the general public, increasing early detection  
29 and diagnosis of disease and disability, reducing risk of  
30 illnesses and diseases, educating the health care workforce and

1 monitoring the health of the State; therefore be it

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

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