

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 1157 Session of 2018

INTRODUCED BY SAMUELSON, WATSON, KORTZ, HENNESSEY, BARBIN, BARRAR, BERNSTINE, BIZZARRO, BOBACK, BOYLE, BRADFORD, BRIGGS, R. BROWN, V. BROWN, BULLOCK, BURNS, CALTAGIRONE, CEPHAS, COMMITTA, SCHLEGEL CULVER, DALEY, DAVIS, DAWKINS, DEAN, DEASY, DeLISSIO, DeLUCA, DiGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI, DRISCOLL, DUSH, ENGLISH, EVERETT, FITZGERALD, FLYNN, FRANKEL, FREEMAN, GOODMAN, HARKINS, HILL-EVANS, JAMES, JOZWIAK, KAUFFMAN, KIM, KINSEY, KLUNK, KRUEGER-BRANEKY, LONGIETTI, MACKENZIE, MADDEN, McCARTER, McClINTON, J. McNEILL, MEHAFFIE, MENTZER, MILLARD, B. MILLER, MURT, NEILSON, NELSON, B. O'NEILL, PASHINSKI, PICKETT, RABB, RAPP, READSHAW, ROE, ROEBUCK, ROZZI, RYAN, SAINATO, SAYLOR, SCHLOSSBERG, SCHWEYER, SOLOMON, SONNEY, STAATS, STURLA, THOMAS, VITALI, WARD, WARREN AND YOUNGBLOOD, OCTOBER 15, 2018

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, OCTOBER 15, 2018

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of November 2018 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 of their ability to walk, talk and perform everyday tasks, which
9 impacts their ability to live independently; and

10 WHEREAS, Approximately 5.7 million Americans have been
11 diagnosed with Alzheimer's or a related disorder, and an
12 estimated 200,000 of those Americans are under 65 years of age;

1 and

2 WHEREAS, More than 1 million Pennsylvanians are directly
3 impacted in some fashion by Alzheimer's disease or a related
4 disorder; and

5 WHEREAS, Unless a cure is found, more than 16 million
6 Americans will have the disease by 2050; and

7 WHEREAS, This year marks the second time total payments for
8 caring for individuals living with Alzheimer's or related
9 disorders exceeded a quarter of a trillion dollars at \$277
10 billion; and

11 WHEREAS, Over 400,000 of our fellow citizens are suffering
12 from Alzheimer's or a related disorder and many of these
13 individuals are being cared for, at home, by family and close
14 friends; and

15 WHEREAS, In Pennsylvania alone, more than 675,000 of these
16 unpaid informal caregivers provided an estimated 769 million
17 hours of care which was valued at more than \$9.7 billion in
18 2017; and

19 WHEREAS, Nationally, in 2017, more than 16.1 million of these
20 unpaid informal caregivers provided an estimated 18.4 billion
21 hours of care, which was valued at more than \$323 billion; and

22 WHEREAS, While unpaid caregivers say they take on the task
23 out of love and find the work rewarding, the stress of
24 caregiving puts a strain on their health and well-being; and

25 WHEREAS, Caregiving also puts a strain on caregivers'
26 finances, as many of them are forced to leave their jobs to take
27 care of a loved one; and

28 WHEREAS, Through early diagnosis and talking with patients
29 and their families we can afford these individuals the dignity
30 and opportunity to be involved in the development of their

1 future care plans; and

2 WHEREAS, Until there is a cure, we need the best in
3 caregiving and caregiver support; and

4 WHEREAS, The Alzheimer's Association's Greater Pennsylvania
5 Chapter and Delaware Valley Chapter, through dedicated staff and
6 volunteers, provide support and education to assist informal
7 caregivers and fund research to prevent, treat and eventually
8 conquer this disease; and

9 WHEREAS, The Alzheimer's Association supports competency-
10 based dementia training across the continuum of care, including
11 public safety personnel, as a way to enhance the well-being of
12 care partners and recipients alike; therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
14 month of November 2018 as "National Alzheimer's Disease
15 Awareness and Family Caregivers Month" in Pennsylvania; and be
16 it further

17 RESOLVED, That this resolution seek to help raise awareness
18 of Alzheimer's and related disorders so individuals and their
19 families and loved ones are comfortable in talking with their
20 doctors about early warning signs of the disease; and be it
21 further

22 RESOLVED, That the Commonwealth recognize the challenges
23 facing those who have been diagnosed with Alzheimer's or related
24 disorders and it is the Commonwealth's wish for them to know
25 that they are not alone in their journey; and be it further

26 RESOLVED, That the Commonwealth acknowledge the dedication
27 and unconditional love our unpaid caregivers display every day
28 as they care for individuals who have been diagnosed with
29 Alzheimer's or related disorders.