

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 357 Session of 2019

INTRODUCED BY KLUNK, SCHMITT, BURNS, BIZZARRO, FEE, MEHAFFIE, SOLOMON, KAUFFMAN, STAATS, DIGIROLAMO, SONNEY, HILL-EVANS, DONATUCCI, MILLARD, KORTZ, PICKETT, PASHINSKI, RYAN, OBERLANDER, HICKERNELL, BERNSTINE, MACKENZIE, DeLUCA, LONGIETTI, HELM, JAMES, NEILSON, READSHAW, THOMAS, EVERETT, SAINATO, DEASY, FREEMAN, PYLE, YOUNGBLOOD, ZIMMERMAN, CALTAGIRONE, B. MILLER, MARKOSEK, MOUL AND GAYDOS, MAY 29, 2019

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, MAY 29, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of June 2019 as "Alzheimer's and Brain
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

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

8 WHEREAS, The Alzheimer's Association calls the summer
9 solstice on June 21 "The Longest Day" to promote teams coming
10 together around the world for a day of activity and advocacy
11 honoring the strength, passion and endurance of individuals
12 facing Alzheimer's disease in keeping with the slogan "The day
13 with the most light is the day we fight"; and

14 WHEREAS, Every individual in our communities is at risk for

1 developing Alzheimer's disease, a fatal disease that cannot be
2 prevented, treated or even slowed; and

3 WHEREAS, It is estimated that 5.8 million Americans of all
4 ages are living with Alzheimer's disease, including 200,000
5 under 65 years of age who have younger-onset Alzheimer's
6 disease, and more than 280,000 Pennsylvanians who are at least
7 65 years of age living with the disease; and

8 WHEREAS, Barring the development of medical breakthroughs,
9 the number of people who are at least 65 years of age with
10 Alzheimer's disease may nearly triple to nearly 14 million by
11 2050; and

12 WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is the sixth leading cause of
13 death in the United States and in Pennsylvania, and nearly one
14 in three seniors dies from Alzheimer's disease or another
15 dementia; and

16 WHEREAS, During 2018 in the United States, more than 16
17 million family members and friends provided 18.5 billion hours
18 of unpaid care to individuals with Alzheimer's disease and other
19 dementias, which care is valued at an estimated \$234 billion;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, In 2018, Pennsylvania had an estimated 676,000
22 Alzheimer's disease and dementia family caregivers providing 770
23 million hours of unpaid care valued at more than \$9.732 billion;
24 and

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

29 WHEREAS, The lifetime cost of care for individuals with
30 dementia nearly doubles that of those without dementia; and

1 WHEREAS, In 2019, Alzheimer's disease and other dementias
2 will cost the nation \$290 billion in total payments for health
3 care and long-term care, and hospice care is expected to reach
4 more than \$1.1 trillion by 2050; and

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

11 WHEREAS, Eighty-two percent of seniors say it is important to
12 have their thinking or memory checked by their primary care
13 doctor, but only 16% of seniors report receiving regular
14 cognitive assessments; and

15 WHEREAS, This reporting underscores the need for older adults
16 and doctors to proactively discuss cognitive health during
17 routine exams that could lead to early diagnosis and promote
18 better care planning and quality of life; and

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

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

26 WHEREAS, The efforts of the Alzheimer's Association to raise
27 funds and promote awareness to fight Alzheimer's disease and
28 other dementias improve the quality of human life for
29 individuals living with Alzheimer's disease and their
30 caregivers; therefore be it

1 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
2 month of June 2019 as "Alzheimer's Disease and Brain Awareness
3 Month" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

4 RESOLVED, That, in an effort to raise awareness about the
5 disease's prevalence, the House of Representatives recognize
6 Alzheimer's disease as a public health crisis for which early
7 detection and diagnosis is paramount; and be it further

8 RESOLVED, That Pennsylvanians be encouraged to wear purple
9 throughout the month of June in support of family and friends
10 living with the disease and participate in "The Longest Day"
11 activities.