
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 904 Session of
2020

INTRODUCED BY KLUNK, ROZZI, MILLARD, SCHMITT, HICKERNELL,
SCHLEGEL CULVER, PICKETT, BIZZARRO, RYAN, FEE, LONGIETTI,
KINSEY, JAMES, FREEMAN, OWLETT, NEILSON, MACKENZIE, KIRKLAND,
SCHWEYER, GLEIM, BURNS, HILL-EVANS, STAATS, WARREN, JONES,
BROWN, GREEN, SONNEY, MOUL, KORTZ, ECKER, READSHAW, MENTZER,
ZIMMERMAN, B. MILLER AND DEASY, JUNE 23, 2020

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, JUNE 23, 2020

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of June 2020 as "Alzheimer's Disease and
2 Brain Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

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

8 WHEREAS, The Alzheimer's Association calls the summer
9 solstice on June 20 "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
15 developing Alzheimer's disease, a fatal disease that cannot be
16 prevented, treated or even slowed; and

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

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

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

14 WHEREAS, During 2019 in the United States, more than 16
15 million Americans provided 18.6 billion hours of unpaid care to
16 individuals with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, which
17 care is valued at an estimated \$244 billion; and

18 WHEREAS, In 2019, Pennsylvania had an estimated 677,000
19 Alzheimer's disease and dementia family caregivers providing 771
20 million hours of unpaid care valued at more than \$10.1 billion;
21 and

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

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

28 WHEREAS, In 2020, Alzheimer's disease and other dementias
29 will cost the nation \$305 billion in total payments for health
30 care and long-term care, and hospice care is expected to reach

1 more than \$1.1 trillion by 2050; and

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

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

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

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

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

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

28 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
29 month of June 2020 as "Alzheimer's Disease and Brain Awareness
30 Month" in Pennsylvania; and be it further

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

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