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THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

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SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 142 Session of  
2019

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INTRODUCED BY SABATINA, DINNIMAN, MARTIN, BARTOLOTTA, BREWSTER,  
FONTANA, MUTH, BROWNE, BAKER, KILLION, TARTAGLIONE, J. WARD,  
PHILLIPS-HILL, BLAKE, AUMENT, HUGHES, COSTA, MENSCH, FOLMER  
AND SCHWANK, JUNE 3, 2019

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INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, JUNE 3, 2019

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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 our Commonwealth; and

8 WHEREAS, The summer solstice, June 21, 2019, 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, a fatal disease that cannot be  
16 prevented, treated or even slowed; and

17 WHEREAS, It is estimated that 5.8 million Americans of all

1 ages are living with Alzheimer's, including 200,000 people under  
2 65 years of age who have younger-onset Alzheimer's in the United  
3 States, and more than 280,000 Pennsylvanians 65 years of age and  
4 older living with the disease; and

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

8 WHEREAS, Alzheimer's is the sixth leading cause of death in  
9 the United States and Pennsylvania, and one in three seniors  
10 dies with Alzheimer's or another dementia; and

11 WHEREAS, During 2018 in the United States, more than 16  
12 million family members and friends provided 18.5 billion hours  
13 of unpaid care to individuals with Alzheimer's and other  
14 dementias and that care had an estimated economic value of \$234  
15 billion; and

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

19 WHEREAS, Those with Alzheimer's and dementia require more  
20 support and resources as cognitive, behavioral and physical  
21 functioning worsens over time, placing enormous burdens on  
22 government budgets and out-of-pocket expenses; and

23 WHEREAS, The lifetime cost of care for those with dementia is  
24 nearly double the cost of care of those without dementia; and

25 WHEREAS, In 2019, Alzheimer's and other dementias will cost  
26 the nation \$290 billion and total payments for health care,  
27 long-term care and hospice care are expected to reach more than  
28 \$1.1 trillion by 2050; and

29 WHEREAS, Since the Alzheimer's and dementia continuum spans  
30 decades, it provides many opportunities to model public health

1 approaches to change outcomes, expand early detection and  
2 diagnosis and improve safety and quality of care for people  
3 living with cognitive impairment, all while attending to the  
4 caregiver's health and well-being; and

5 WHEREAS, Eighty-two percent of seniors say it is important to  
6 have their thinking or memory checked by a primary care doctor,  
7 but only 16% of seniors report receiving regular cognitive  
8 assessments, underscoring the need for older adults and doctors  
9 to proactively discuss cognitive health during routine exams  
10 that could lead to early diagnosis and promote better care  
11 planning and quality of life; and

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

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

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

24 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the month of June 2019 as  
25 "Alzheimer's Disease and Brain Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania;  
26 and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That, in an effort to raise more awareness about  
28 the disease's prevalence, the Senate:

29 (1) recognize that Alzheimer's is a public health crisis  
30 that impacts everyone throughout this Commonwealth and early

1 detection and diagnosis is paramount;

2 (2) encourage Pennsylvanians to wear purple throughout  
3 the month of June in support of family and friends living  
4 with the disease; and

5 (3) encourage Pennsylvanians to participate in one of  
6 the Alzheimer's Association "The Longest Day" local  
7 activities.