

No. R-462. House concurrent resolution designating April 29, 2014 as Alzheimer's Awareness Day in Vermont.

(H.C.R.346)

Offered by: All Members of the House

Whereas, dementia is a “deterioration of intellectual facilities such as memory, concentration and judgment,” and

Whereas, Alzheimer's is the most common form of dementia in the United States, and

Whereas, the symptoms of Alzheimer's develop slowly and worsen over time, and

Whereas, although the greatest known risk factor for Alzheimer's is increasing age, it is not a normal part of aging, and

Whereas, according to the Alzheimer's Association, an estimated 5.2 million Americans have the disease, and the comparable Vermont figure is 11,000, and

Whereas, Alzheimer's is the sixth leading cause of death in the United States, and annually approximately 500,000 deaths are attributable to Alzheimer's disease, and

Whereas, according to 2013 data, there are 15.5 million Americans serving as Alzheimer's caregivers who devote an estimated 17.7 billion unpaid hours valued at \$220 billion, and

Whereas, Alzheimer's has no current cure, but treatment for symptoms is available and research continues, and

Whereas, the General Assembly has recognized the societal impact of Alzheimer's and established the Commission on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders (Commission), and

Whereas, the Commission is directed in statute to “advise State agencies on matters of State policy relating to Alzheimer's disease and other dementia-related disorders,” and

Whereas, in this capacity, a Commission subcommittee provided guidance and oversight to the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living in the development of the State Plan on Dementia, and

Whereas, today, April 29, 2014, Vermonters concerned about Alzheimer's are visiting the State House, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates April 29, 2014 as Alzheimer's Awareness Day in Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association.