

1 HJR162  
2 218804-2  
3 By Representative Hall  
4 RFD: Rules  
5 First Read: 15-MAR-22

1  
2 ENROLLED, House Joint Resolution,  
3 REAUTHORIZING THE ALABAMA ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE TASK  
4 FORCE.

5  
6 WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease, a progressive  
7 neurodegenerative brain disorder, tragically robs individuals  
8 of their memory and leads to progressive mental and physical  
9 impairments; and

10 WHEREAS, there are no known proven treatments to  
11 prevent, cure, or even delay the onset or slow the progression  
12 of Alzheimer's disease; and

13 WHEREAS, an estimated 96,000 Alabamians 65 years of  
14 age and older have Alzheimer's disease, and currently 206,000  
15 Alabamians are designated as caregivers; and

16 WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is the sixth leading  
17 cause of death in the State of Alabama; and

18 WHEREAS, according to the Alzheimer's Association  
19 Facts and Figures Report, the direct costs to American  
20 citizens to care for those with Alzheimer's is valued at \$355  
21 billion, and more than 11 million caregivers provided over 15  
22 billion hours of unpaid care for those with Alzheimer's and  
23 other dementias in 2020; in Alabama, 206,000 family members  
24 and friends cared for people with Alzheimer's and other  
25 dementias, providing 2,225 million hours of unpaid care with

1 the annual value of this caregiving totaling to \$2.8 billion;  
2 and

3 WHEREAS, the prevalence of Alzheimer's and other  
4 dementias is anticipated to increase by nearly 15 percent  
5 during the next three years; and

6 WHEREAS, Alzheimer's and other dementias are not  
7 part of normal aging, and they have made severe impact across  
8 many state agencies, including, but not limited to, Medicaid,  
9 public health, the workforce, facility, licensing, aging, and  
10 others; and

11 WHEREAS, the State of Alabama recognizes the need to  
12 have a clear and coordinated approach to address Alzheimer's  
13 disease and other dementias; and

14 WHEREAS, in May 2012, the Alabama Alzheimer's  
15 Disease Task Force was established in House Joint Resolution  
16 433 and was charged with assessing the impact of Alzheimer's  
17 disease, examining the existing service delivery system, and  
18 developing strategies to respond to this crisis within the  
19 state; the Task Force included representatives from state  
20 agencies, health care organizations, and community  
21 organizations, and also included state legislators,  
22 caregivers, researchers, and individuals living with the  
23 disease, resulting in the State Plan for Alzheimer's Disease  
24 and Other Related Dementias in Alabama, published in April  
25 2015; and

1           WHEREAS, the State of Alabama has not published a  
2 State Alzheimer's and Disease Plan since 2015 and recognizes  
3 the need to update the existing state plan; now therefore,

4           BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
5 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we join together to recommend  
6 that the Alabama Alzheimer's Disease Task Force be  
7 reauthorized and begin meeting for the purposes of updating  
8 the Alzheimer's State Plan, prioritizing the outstanding  
9 recommendations, developing policy recommendations on how the  
10 state can prepare the health care workforce to meet the rising  
11 need for dementia care, improving the access and quality of  
12 dementia care, increasing public awareness about Alzheimer's  
13 disease and other dementias, and building support for family  
14 caregivers of individuals with dementia.

