
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 1066 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY SAMUELSON, WATSON, KORTZ, HENNESSEY, BAKER,
BIZZARRO, BOBACK, R. BROWN, V. BROWN, CALTAGIRONE, COHEN,
D. COSTA, DAVIS, DEAN, DeLUCA, DiGIROLAMO, DONATUCCI,
DRISCOLL, DUSH, ENGLISH, FREEMAN, HAHN, HARHART, A. HARRIS,
J. HARRIS, KAUFFMAN, KINSEY, KIRKLAND, LONGIETTI, MACKENZIE,
McNEILL, MENTZER, MILLARD, MUSTIO, NEILSON, O'NEILL, PICKETT,
RAPP, READSHAW, REGAN, ROZZI, SAYLOR, SCHLOSSBERG, SONNEY,
STAATS, STURLA, TOOHIL, VEREB, VITALI, WARD, WHEELAND,
YOUNGBLOOD, EVERETT, DEASY, GIBBONS, PAYNE, ROSS, McCARTER
AND MAHONEY, OCTOBER 17, 2016

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
OCTOBER 17, 2016

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of November 2016 as "Alzheimer's Disease
2 Awareness and Caregivers Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is currently an incurable,
4 irreversible disease and the most common form of dementia; and

5 WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease results in a loss of memories,
6 the ability to walk and talk, problem-solving skills and other
7 cognitive skills that affect a person's ability to perform
8 everyday activities; and

9 WHEREAS, More than 5 million Americans are living with
10 Alzheimer's disease and though approximately half have a formal
11 diagnosis, only one-third are aware they have the disease; and

12 WHEREAS, Unless a cure is found, more than 16 million
13 Americans will have the disease by 2050; and

1 WHEREAS, As many as 400,000 Pennsylvanians have been
2 diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease or a related disorder and
3 more than 1 million Pennsylvanians are directly impacted by the
4 diseases; and

5 WHEREAS, Seven percent of the Commonwealth's nursing home
6 beds are dedicated to people with Alzheimer's disease, yet 70%
7 of Pennsylvanians with Alzheimer's disease or a related disorder
8 live at home; and

9 WHEREAS, Informal caregivers, including family and close
10 friends, provide much of the daily assistance that allows these
11 individuals to live at home for as long as possible; and

12 WHEREAS, Only 45% of caregivers are aware of their loved
13 ones' diagnoses; and

14 WHEREAS, The top reason family and friends give for providing
15 care to someone with Alzheimer's disease or a related disorder
16 is to keep their loved one at home; and

17 WHEREAS, Receiving care at home by informal caregivers is far
18 less expensive than receiving care in a nursing facility and
19 saves the Commonwealth millions of dollars in health care costs;
20 and

21 WHEREAS, In 2015, 673,000 informal caregivers provided an
22 estimated 766 million hours of unpaid care, valued at over \$9.3
23 million in care costs; and

24 WHEREAS, Caregiving often includes assistance with one or
25 more activities of daily living, including bathing and dressing,
26 eating, paying bills and keeping appointments; and

27 WHEREAS, While the act of caregiving is rewarding, these care
28 partners often suffer from stress, exhaustion, feelings of
29 isolation and economic worries; and

30 WHEREAS, Early diagnosis and talking with the patient and

1 family affords the individual the dignity and opportunity to be
2 involved in the development of future care plans; and

3 WHEREAS, Thorough diagnosis and care planning are essential
4 to improving outcomes for those living with Alzheimer's disease
5 or related disorders and their family members; and

6 WHEREAS, In declaring Alzheimer's disease a public health
7 crisis, Pennsylvania has adopted a State Plan for Alzheimer's
8 Disease and Related Disorders designed to improve dementia
9 training standards and increase awareness, knowledge and a sense
10 of urgency about the medical, social and financial implications
11 of Alzheimer's disease and related disorders; and

12 WHEREAS, The State Plan for Alzheimer's Disease and Related
13 Disorders will also enhance support for our informal caregivers
14 and those living with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, The Alzheimer's Association Greater Pennsylvania
17 Chapter and Delaware Valley Chapter, through dedicated staff and
18 volunteers, provides support and education to assist informal
19 caregivers and helps to fund research to prevent, treat and
20 eventually conquer this disease; and

21 WHEREAS, "Alzheimer's Disease Awareness and Caregivers Month"
22 allows us to honor those who have been diagnosed with this
23 disease and recognize the devotion of our informal caregivers
24 who endure financial and emotional strains to provide love and
25 support to individuals living with an Alzheimer's disease
26 diagnosis; therefore be it

27 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate the
28 month of November 2016 as "Alzheimer's Disease Awareness and
29 Caregivers Month" in Pennsylvania.