
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 557 Session of
2013

INTRODUCED BY SAMUELSON, WATSON, KORTZ, HENNESSEY, COHEN, DAVIS, MCNEILL, V. BROWN, MILLARD, SCHLOSSBERG, FREEMAN, DIGIROLAMO, FARINA, KAVULICH, BROOKS, BURNS, LONGIETTI, SCHREIBER, SONNEY, ENGLISH, NEILSON, MACKENZIE, MULLERY, ROSS, PAINTER, PARKER, RAVENSTAHL, SNYDER, HEFFLEY, READSHAW, MICOZZIE, VEREB, BOBACK, D. COSTA, CALTAGIRONE, SCHLEGEL CULVER, MIRABITO, MAJOR, HARHAI, LUCAS, O'NEILL, GIBBONS, BROWNLEE, EMRICK, P. DALEY, MENTZER, SWANGER, MURT, MAHONEY, MCCARTER, KIRKLAND, STERN, FABRIZIO, ROCK, HARHART, BISHOP, FLECK, SABATINA, EVERETT, TALLMAN, MILNE, C. HARRIS, KIM, MARSICO, BIZZARRO, OBERLANDER, FLYNN, PASHINSKI, D. MILLER, HAHN, DELISSIO, DeLUCA AND GINGRICH, NOVEMBER 18, 2013

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35,
NOVEMBER 18, 2013

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating November 2013 as "Alzheimer's Disease Awareness and
2 Education Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is an irreversible degenerative
4 brain disorder affecting over 5 million Americans; and

5 WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease slowly destroys memory and other
6 thinking skills and eventually, even the ability to carry out
7 simple tasks; and

8 WHEREAS, Every 68 seconds someone in the United States is
9 diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease and by 2050 someone will
10 develop the disease every 33 seconds; and

11 WHEREAS, There is no known cure for Alzheimer's disease and
12 an individual with Alzheimer's has a shorter life expectancy

1 than the individual might have otherwise; and

2 WHEREAS, Over 400,000 Pennsylvanians have Alzheimer's disease
3 or a related disorder, ranking this Commonwealth fifth in the
4 nation in the occurrence of the disease; and

5 WHEREAS, People with dementia become increasingly reliant on
6 caregivers throughout the course of the disease and more needs
7 to be done to help family caregivers; and

8 WHEREAS, Last year, 667,000 Pennsylvanians provided over 750
9 million hours of unpaid care to a family member or loved one
10 with Alzheimer's disease or a related disorder, saving the
11 Commonwealth more than \$9 billion in care costs; and

12 WHEREAS, The tragic personal toll and associated financial
13 costs of Alzheimer's disease are expected to increase as the
14 average age of this Commonwealth's population continues to rise;
15 and

16 WHEREAS, Continued Alzheimer's disease awareness and
17 caregiver support are critical as the medical community
18 continues to search for treatment and a cure; and

19 WHEREAS, The 2012 World Alzheimer Report found a lack of
20 awareness of the disease results in stigmatization, which can
21 prevent individuals from getting diagnosed; and

22 WHEREAS, Without a diagnosis, patients do not receive early
23 treatments that could allow them to remain independent longer,
24 they lose the opportunity to make their wishes about future care
25 known and their families lose the opportunity to receive support
26 services to help them care for their loved one at home; and

27 WHEREAS, Many factors associated with the risk of
28 cardiovascular disease are also associated with a higher risk of
29 developing Alzheimer's disease, including: family history,
30 stress, smoking, obesity, diabetes, high cholesterol and

1 hypertension; and

2 WHEREAS, Research suggests that what is good for the heart is
3 good for the brain: we need further public education efforts
4 focused on healthy aging, including eating well, exercising both
5 mind and body and remaining socially active, as our best defense
6 against Alzheimer's disease; therefore be it

7 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate
8 November 2013 as "Alzheimer's Disease Awareness and Education
9 Month" in Pennsylvania to raise awareness of the symptoms and
10 prevention of Alzheimer's disease and related disorders in this
11 Commonwealth.