
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 612 Session of
2019

INTRODUCED BY SAMUELSON, MURT, KORTZ, BERNSTINE, BIZZARRO,
BOBACK, BROWN, BURNS, T. DAVIS, DEASY, DeLUCA, DIGIROLAMO,
EVERETT, HEFFLEY, HENNESSEY, HILL-EVANS, HOWARD, JAMES,
JOHNSON-HARRELL, JONES, KAUFFMAN, KINSEY, LONGIETTI,
MACKENZIE, MALAGARI, McCLINTON, McNEILL, MILLARD, B. MILLER,
NEILSON, PICKETT, PYLE, RYAN, SAINATO, SAYLOR, SCHLOSSBERG,
SCHMITT, SCHROEDER, SONNEY, STAATS, THOMAS, YOUNGBLOOD AND
ZIMMERMAN, NOVEMBER 15, 2019

REFERRED TO COMMITTEE ON AGING AND OLDER ADULT SERVICES,
NOVEMBER 15, 2019

A RESOLUTION

1 Recognizing the month of November 2019 as "National Alzheimer's
2 Disease Awareness and Family Caregivers Month" in
3 Pennsylvania.

4 WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is an irreversible degenerative
5 brain disorder that, as yet, cannot be prevented, slowed or
6 cured; and

7 WHEREAS, Alzheimer's robs its victims of their memories and
8 their ability to walk, talk and perform everyday tasks, which
9 impacts their ability to live independently; and

10 WHEREAS, Approximately 5.8 million Americans have been
11 diagnosed with Alzheimer's or a related disorder, and an
12 estimated 200,000 of those Americans are under 65 years of age;
13 and

14 WHEREAS, Unless a cure is found, more than 14 million
15 Americans will have the disease by 2050; and

1 WHEREAS, Alzheimer's is the sixth leading cause of death in
2 the United States, where 4,213 Pennsylvanians died from
3 Alzheimer's in 2017; and

4 WHEREAS, This year marks the third year that the total
5 payments for caring for individuals living with Alzheimer's or
6 related disorders exceeded a quarter of a trillion dollars at
7 \$290 billion; and

8 WHEREAS, More than 400,000 of our fellow Pennsylvanians are
9 suffering from Alzheimer's or a related disorder and many of
10 these individuals are being cared for, at home, by family and
11 close friends; and

12 WHEREAS, In Pennsylvania alone, more than 676,000 of these
13 unpaid informal caregivers provided an estimated 770 million
14 hours of care which was valued at more than \$9.7 billion in
15 2018; and

16 WHEREAS, While unpaid caregivers say they take on the task
17 out of love and find the work rewarding, the stress of
18 caregiving puts a strain on the caregiver's health, well-being
19 and finances as many of those caregivers are forced to leave
20 their jobs to care for a loved one; and

21 WHEREAS, Seventy percent of total lifetime costs of caring
22 for an individual living with Alzheimer's or a related disorder
23 is borne by family members; and

24 WHEREAS, Until there is a cure for Alzheimer's, we need the
25 best caregiving and caregiver support; and

26 WHEREAS, The Alzheimer's Association's Greater Pennsylvania
27 Chapter and Delaware Valley Chapter, through dedicated staff and
28 volunteers, provide support and education to assist informal
29 caregivers and fund research to prevent, treat and eventually
30 conquer this disease; and

1 WHEREAS, The Alzheimer's Association's Greater Pennsylvania
2 Chapter and Delaware Valley Chapter, through dedicated staff and
3 volunteers, organize the world's largest event to raise
4 awareness and money for Alzheimer's research, care and support
5 with walks taking place in Harrisburg, Philadelphia, Pittsburgh,
6 Erie, State College and more; and

7 WHEREAS, The Alzheimer's Association supports competency-
8 based dementia training across the continuum of care, including
9 public safety personnel, as a way to enhance the well-being of
10 care partners and recipients alike; therefore be it

11 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives recognize the
12 month of November 2018 as "National Alzheimer's Disease
13 Awareness and Family Caregivers Month" in Pennsylvania; and be
14 it further

15 RESOLVED, That this resolution seek to help raise awareness
16 of Alzheimer's and related disorders so that individuals and
17 their families and loved ones are comfortable in talking with
18 their doctors about early warning signs of Alzheimer's and
19 related disorders; and be it further

20 RESOLVED, That the Commonwealth recognize the challenges
21 facing those who have been diagnosed with Alzheimer's or related
22 disorders, and it is the Commonwealth's wish for them to know
23 that they are not alone in their journey; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That the Commonwealth acknowledge the dedication
25 and unconditional love our unpaid caregivers display every day
26 as they care for individuals who have been diagnosed with
27 Alzheimer's or related disorders.