

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

HOUSE RESOLUTION

No. 308 Session of 2015

INTRODUCED BY KORTZ, WATSON, SAMUELSON, BISHOP, QUIGLEY, BENNINGHOFF, M. K. KELLER, DONATUCCI, CALTAGIRONE, VEREB, HELM, ROSS, GODSHALL, BROWNLEE, DIGIROLAMO, KILLION, McCARTER, KOTIK, HARHART, SAINATO, KLUNK, BAKER, MURT, BIZZARRO, READSHAW, THOMAS, CONKLIN, YOUNGBLOOD, MILLARD, MACKENZIE, V. BROWN, ROZZI, KIM, LONGIETTI, COHEN, KIRKLAND, KAUFFMAN, MUSTIO, KINSEY, A. HARRIS, BOBACK, SONNEY, DUSH, WHEELAND, D. COSTA, FARINA, MAJOR, SCHWEYER, HARKINS, GIBBONS, DeLUCA, MOUL, HENNESSEY, O'NEILL, MAHONEY, GOODMAN, MARSICO, FEE, PAYNE, ACOSTA, MENTZER, OBERLANDER, DRISCOLL, D. PARKER, STAATS, IRVIN, BURNS, FRANKEL, PICKETT, P. DALEY, M. DALEY, ENGLISH, DAVIS, SCHREIBER, McNEILL, B. MILLER, RAVENSTAHL, GERGELY, EVERETT, SAYLOR, MATZIE, ELLIS, KAVULICH AND SCHLEGEL CULVER, MAY 4, 2015

INTRODUCED AS NONCONTROVERSIAL RESOLUTION UNDER RULE 35, MAY 4, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating May 5, 2015, as "Alzheimer's Awareness Action Day"
2 in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is an irreversible degenerative
4 brain disorder affecting more than 5.3 million Americans; and

5 WHEREAS, Of the 5.3 million Americans that have the disease,
6 an estimated 5.1 million are 65 years of age or older and
7 approximately 200,000 are under 65 years of age; and

8 WHEREAS, Every 67 seconds, someone in the United States
9 develops the disease and by 2050, the diagnosis rate will
10 increase to every 33 seconds; and

11 WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease slowly destroys memory and other

1 cognitive abilities and eventually destroys the ability to carry
2 out simple tasks; and

3 WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is a progressive disease, as
4 dementia symptoms gradually worsen over a number of years; and

5 WHEREAS, Although current treatments cannot stop the disease
6 from progressing, the treatments can temporarily slow the
7 worsening of dementia symptoms and improve the quality of life
8 for those that have the disease and their caregivers; and

9 WHEREAS, People that have Alzheimer's disease or related
10 disorders become increasingly reliant on caregivers throughout
11 the course of the disease; and

12 WHEREAS, Last year, 671,000 Pennsylvanians provided more than
13 765 million hours of unpaid care to a family member or loved one
14 that had Alzheimer's disease or a related disorder, saving the
15 Commonwealth more than \$9 billion in care costs; and

16 WHEREAS, The tragic personal toll and associated financial
17 costs of the disease are expected to increase as the average age
18 of the population of this Commonwealth continues to rise; and

19 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Alzheimer's Disease State Planning
20 Committee was created in 2013 to develop a State plan to address
21 this growing epidemic; and

22 WHEREAS, The committee finalized its report in early 2014,
23 recommending improving awareness, providing a continuum of care,
24 enhancing support for caregivers, supporting research and
25 promoting brain health and cognitive fitness; and

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

1 WHEREAS, Research suggests that heart health and brain health
2 are connected and the best defense against the disease is
3 further public education efforts focused on healthy aging,
4 including eating well, exercising both mind and body and
5 remaining socially active; therefore be it

6 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives designate May 5,
7 2015, as "Alzheimer's Awareness Action Day" in Pennsylvania to
8 raise awareness in this Commonwealth of Alzheimer's disease and
9 related disorders.