

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 69

BY SENATOR WALSWORTH

A RESOLUTION

To express the Louisiana Senate's continued support of the Louisiana Alzheimer's Disease Task Force's 2009 Final Report and implementation of its recommendations contained therein.

WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is a fatal, degenerative disease of the brain that impairs cognitive function, memory and behavior; and

WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is not a normal part of the aging process and is the sixth leading cause of death in the United States, and the fifth leading cause of death for individuals over 65 years of age; and

WHEREAS, over five million people nationwide have Alzheimer's disease, including approximately 81,000 Louisianians; and

WHEREAS, nearly one in every three seniors that die each year were experiencing various stages of Alzheimer's; and

WHEREAS, in 2010, 1,295 deaths resulted from Alzheimer's disease in Louisiana; and

WHEREAS, the total cost of care nationally for individuals with Alzheimer's disease is expected to soar from \$214 billion in 2014 to \$1.2 trillion in the year 2050; and

WHEREAS, nationally, average per-person Medicaid spending for seniors with Alzheimer's and other dementias is nineteen times higher than average per-person Medicaid spending for all other seniors; and

WHEREAS, in 2013, 228,000 family caregivers in Louisiana provided 260,000,000 hours of unpaid Alzheimer's care, valued at \$3.2 billion; and

WHEREAS, nearly 80 percent of Louisiana seniors who reported experiencing confusion or memory loss happening more often or getting worse have not talked with a health care professional regarding the issue; and

WHEREAS, approximately 54 percent of Louisiana seniors with memory problems report that those problems create difficulty and burden in their daily lives; and

WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease takes a tremendous emotional toll on all whose lives it touches, including family members, friends, and especially the caregivers of those living with the disease; and

WHEREAS, more than 60 percent of Alzheimer's and dementia caregivers are women; and

WHEREAS, in 2008, the Louisiana Alzheimer's Disease Task Force was created by Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 80 comprised of state officials, as well as statutorily defined representatives from interested community and industry partners; and

WHEREAS, the task force, in accordance with its legislative charge, accomplished the following: (1) assessed the current and future impact of Alzheimer's disease on Louisianians; (2) examined the existing industries, services and resources addressing the needs of persons with Alzheimer's, their families and caregivers; (3) developed a strategy to mobilize a state response to Alzheimer's; (4) held public meetings and utilized technological means to gather feedback from persons and families affected by Alzheimer's; and (5) in 2009, submitted a report of findings and recommendations to the Louisiana Legislature and the governor in the form of a state Alzheimer's plan; and

WHEREAS, recommendations from the Louisiana Alzheimer's Disease Task Force's 2009 Final Report covered the following areas: infrastructure; data collection; education and training; early detection and diagnosis; safety; services and facilities; and health coverage; and

WHEREAS, full implementation of the task force's final report will move Louisiana closer to becoming a dementia-capable state and better suited to handle the fiscal, psychological and social demands that Alzheimer's places on Louisiana families.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express its continued support of the Louisiana Alzheimer's Disease Task Force's 2009 Final Report and implementation of its recommendations.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that there be a renewed focus on implementation of the Louisiana Alzheimer's Disease Task Force's 2009 Final Report, in partnership with the Department of Health and Hospitals and the Alzheimer's Association's Louisiana chapter.

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**ENROLLED**

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Alzheimer's Association of Louisiana and the Department of Health and Hospitals.

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE