

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 87

BY REPRESENTATIVE JAMES

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To commend the Louisiana chapter of the Alzheimer's Association for its efforts in Louisiana to eliminate Alzheimer's disease through the advancement of research, provide and enhance care and support for all affected, and reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health, and to recognize Wednesday, April 23, 2014, as Alzheimer's Awareness Day at the state capitol.

WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is a slow, progressive disorder of the brain that results in loss of memory and other cognitive function and, eventually, death; and

WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is the sixth leading cause of death in the United States and currently affects an estimated five million Americans; and

WHEREAS, more than five hundred thousand seniors die each year because they have Alzheimer's disease; and

WHEREAS, in Louisiana alone it is estimated that more than ninety-two thousand people have Alzheimer's disease; and

WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease takes an enormous toll on family members, with an estimated two hundred twenty-eight thousand people in Louisiana acting as caregivers for individuals with the disease; and

WHEREAS, caregivers for individuals with Alzheimer's disease suffer from increased levels of stress and depression that differ from those of caregivers who deal with other illnesses and that can create health problems unique to those caregivers; and

WHEREAS, the Alzheimer's Association works on a global, national, and local level to enhance care and support for all those affected by Alzheimer's disease and other dementias; and

WHEREAS, as the largest nonprofit funder of Alzheimer's disease research, the Alzheimer's Association is committed to accelerating progress of new treatments, preventions, and ultimately, a cure; and

WHEREAS, through its partnerships and funded projects, the Alzheimer's Association has been part of every major research advancement over the past thirty years; and

WHEREAS, although there is currently no cure for Alzheimer's disease, new treatments are on the horizon as a result of accelerating insight into the biology of the disease; and

WHEREAS, research has also shown that effective care and support can improve quality of life for individuals and their caregivers over the course of the disease from diagnosis to the end of life; and

WHEREAS, recent advancements in scientific research have demonstrated the benefits of early medical treatment for individuals with Alzheimer's disease, as well as the benefits of early access to counseling and other support services for their caregivers; and

WHEREAS, the Alzheimer's Association is a leading voice for Alzheimer's disease advocacy, fighting for critical Alzheimer's research, prevention, and care initiatives at the state and federal level, and working diligently to make Alzheimer's a national priority; and

WHEREAS, the Alzheimer's Association is committed to the eradication of Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia through the advancement of research, committed to providing and enhancing care and support of all affected, and committed to reducing the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health.

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby commend the Louisiana chapter of the Alzheimer's Association for its efforts in Louisiana to eliminate Alzheimer's disease through the advancement of research, provide and enhance care and support for all affected, and reduce the risk of dementia through the promotion of brain health, and to recognize Wednesday, April 23, 2014, as Alzheimer's Awareness Day at the state capitol.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a suitable copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Louisiana chapter of the Alzheimer's Association.

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE