

2015 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 109

BY SENATOR WALSWORTH

COMMENDATIONS. Recognizes May 27, 2015, as Alzheimer's Awareness Day at the state capitol and expresses the continued support of the Louisiana Alzheimer's Disease Task Force's Final Report.

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To recognize May 27, 2015, as "Alzheimer's Awareness Day" at the state capitol and expresses the continued support of the Louisiana Alzheimer's Disease Task Force's Final Report and the implementation of its recommendations.

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

WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is the sixth leading cause of death in the United States, and the fifth leading cause of death for those over sixty-five years of age; and

WHEREAS, over five million people nationwide have Alzheimer's disease, including approximately eighty-two thousand Louisianians; and

WHEREAS, nearly one in every three seniors dies each year with Alzheimer's disease; and

WHEREAS, in 2012, one thousand five hundred five 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 two hundred twenty-six billion dollars in 2015 to over one trillion dollars in the year 2050; and

1           WHEREAS, nationally, the average per person's Medicaid spending for seniors with  
2           Alzheimer's disease and other dementia is nineteen times higher than the average per  
3           person's Medicaid spending for all other seniors; and

4           WHEREAS, in 2014, two hundred thirty thousand family caregivers in Louisiana  
5           provided 262,000,000 hours of unpaid Alzheimer's care, valued at over three billion dollars;  
6           and

7           WHEREAS, only forty-five percent of people with Alzheimer's disease or their  
8           caregivers report being told of their diagnosis; and

9           WHEREAS, nearly eighty percent of Louisiana seniors who reported experiencing  
10          confusion or memory loss happening more often or getting worse have not talked with a  
11          health care professional about it; and

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

15          WHEREAS, more than sixty percent of Alzheimer's and dementia caregivers are  
16          women; and

17          WHEREAS, in 2008, the Louisiana Alzheimer's Disease Task Force was established  
18          by the legislature; and

19          WHEREAS, the Louisiana Alzheimer's Disease Task Force was comprised of  
20          membership from the legislature, as well as defined representatives from interested  
21          community and industry partners; and

22          WHEREAS, the task force, in accordance with its legislative charge, accomplished  
23          the following: assessed the current and future impact of Alzheimer's disease on Louisianians;  
24          examined the existing industries, services, and resources addressing the needs of persons  
25          with Alzheimer's disease, their families and caregivers; developed a strategy to mobilize a  
26          state response to Alzheimer's disease; held public meetings and utilized technological means  
27          to gather feedback from persons and families affected by Alzheimer's disease; submitted a  
28          report of findings and recommendations to the legislature and the governor in the form of  
29          a state Alzheimer's disease plan in October of 2009; and

30          WHEREAS, recommendations from the Louisiana Alzheimer's Disease Task Force

1 Final Report covered the following areas: infrastructure, data collection, education and  
2 training, early detection and diagnosis, safety, services and facilities, and health coverage.

3 THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
4 recognize May 27, 2015, as "Alzheimer's Awareness Day" at the state capitol and expresses  
5 their continued support of the Louisiana Alzheimer's Disease Task Force's Final Report and  
6 expresses the renewed implementation of the Louisiana Alzheimer's Disease Task Force's  
7 Final Report, in partnership with the Department of Health and Hospitals and the  
8 Alzheimer's Association Louisiana chapter.

9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that implementation of the task force report will  
10 move Louisiana closer to becoming a dementia-capable state, better suited to handle the  
11 fiscal, psychological, and social demands Alzheimer's disease places on Louisiana families.

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

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The original instrument and the following digest, which constitutes no part  
of the legislative instrument, were prepared by Tammy Crain Waldrop.

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SCR 109 Original	DIGEST 2015 Regular Session	Walsworth
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