

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 178

BY REPRESENTATIVE JAMES

HEALTH: Expresses the intention and commitment of the legislature to renew the state's focus on implementation of the State Alzheimer's Plan recommended by the Louisiana Alzheimer's Disease Task Force

## A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To express the intention and commitment of the Legislature of Louisiana to renew the state's focus on implementation of the State Alzheimer's Plan recommended by the Louisiana Alzheimer's Disease Task Force, in partnership with the Department of Health and Hospitals and the Louisiana chapter of the Alzheimer's Association.

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, more than five million people nationwide have Alzheimer's disease, including approximately eighty-two thousand people in Louisiana; 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 one trillion one hundred billion dollars in the year 2050; and

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

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

7 WHEREAS, nearly eighty percent of Louisiana seniors who have reported  
8 experiencing confusion or memory loss that is happening more often or getting worse have  
9 not talked with a healthcare professional about it; and

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

13 WHEREAS, more than sixty percent of Alzheimer's disease and dementia caregivers  
14 are women; and

15 WHEREAS, in 2008, the Louisiana Alzheimer's Disease Task Force was established  
16 by the Louisiana Legislature; and

17 WHEREAS, the task force was composed of members from relevant state agencies  
18 as well as representatives from interested community and industry partners; and

19 WHEREAS, the task force, in accordance with its legislative charge, assessed the  
20 current and future impact of Alzheimer's disease on the people of Louisiana, examined the  
21 existing industries, services, and resources addressing the needs of persons with Alzheimer's  
22 disease, their families, and caregivers, and held public meetings and utilized technological  
23 means to gather feedback from persons and families affected by Alzheimer's disease; and

24 WHEREAS, the task force submitted a final report of findings and recommendations  
25 to the legislature and the governor in the form of a State Alzheimer's Plan in October of  
26 2009; and

27 WHEREAS, recommendations from the final report of the Louisiana Alzheimer's  
28 Disease Task Force covered several areas, including infrastructure, data collection, education  
29 and training, early detection and diagnosis, safety, services and facilities, and healthcare  
30 coverage; and

1           WHEREAS, implementation of the State Alzheimer's Plan will move Louisiana  
2 closer to becoming a dementia-capable state, better suited to handle the fiscal, psychological,  
3 and social demands that Alzheimer's disease places on Louisiana families.

4           THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby  
5 express the intention and commitment of the legislature to renew the state's focus on  
6 implementation of the State Alzheimer's Plan recommended by the Louisiana Alzheimer's  
7 Disease Task Force, in partnership with the Department of Health and Hospitals and the  
8 Louisiana chapter of the Alzheimer's Association.

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

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#### DIGEST

The digest printed below was prepared by House Legislative Services. It constitutes no part of the legislative instrument. The keyword, one-liner, abstract, and digest do not constitute part of the law or proof or indicia of legislative intent. [R.S. 1:13(B) and 24:177(E)]

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HCR 178 Engrossed

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James

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