

2015 Regular Session

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 178

BY REPRESENTATIVE JAMES

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express 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, in partnership with the Department of Health and Hospitals and the Louisiana chapter of the Alzheimer's Association.

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