

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 81

BY SENATOR WALSWORTH

A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

To recognize May 4, 2016, 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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, nearly eighty 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 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 and dementia caregivers are women; and

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

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

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

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

THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED that the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby recognize May 4, 2016, as "Alzheimer's Awareness Day" at the state capitol and expresses their continued support of the Louisiana Alzheimer's Disease Task Force's Final Report and expresses the renewed implementation of the Louisiana Alzheimer's Disease Task Force's Final Report, in partnership with the Department of Health and Hospitals and the Alzheimer's Association Louisiana chapter.

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

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

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PRESIDENT OF THE SENATE

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SPEAKER OF THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES