

Regular Session, 2014

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 101

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

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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

6 WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is a fatal, degenerative disease of the brain that
7 impairs cognitive function, memory, and behavior; and

8 WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is not a normal part of the aging process; and

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

11 WHEREAS, over five million people nationwide have Alzheimer's disease, including
12 approximately eighty-one thousand people in Louisiana; and

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

15 WHEREAS, in 2010, one thousand two hundred ninety-five deaths resulted from
16 Alzheimer's disease in Louisiana; and

17 WHEREAS, the total cost of care nationally for individuals with Alzheimer's disease
18 is expected to soar from two hundred fourteen billion dollars in 2014 to one trillion two
19 hundred billion dollars in the year 2050; and

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

4 WHEREAS, in 2013, two hundred twenty-eight thousand family caregivers in
5 Louisiana provided two hundred sixty million hours of unpaid Alzheimer's disease care,
6 valued at three billion two hundred million dollars; and

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

10 WHEREAS, fifty-four percent of Louisiana seniors with memory problems report
11 that those problems create difficulty and burden in their daily lives; 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 disease and dementia caregivers
16 are women; and

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

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

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

26 WHEREAS, the task force developed a strategy to mobilize a state response to
27 Alzheimer's disease; and

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

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

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

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

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

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)]

James

HCR No. 101

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 La. Alzheimer's Disease Task Force, in partnership with the Dept. of Health and Hospitals and the La. chapter of the Alzheimer's Association.