

2016 Regular Session

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 81

BY SENATOR WALSWORTH

LEGIS POWERS/FUNCTIONS. Recognizes 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.

1 A CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

2 To recognize May 4, 2016, as "Alzheimer's Awareness Day" at the state capitol and
3 expresses the continued support of the Louisiana Alzheimer's Disease Task Force's
4 Final Report and the implementation of its recommendations.

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

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

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

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

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

14 WHEREAS, in 2012, one thousand five hundred five deaths resulted from
15 Alzheimer's disease in Louisiana; and

16 WHEREAS, the total cost of care nationally for individuals with Alzheimer's disease
17 is expected to soar from two hundred twenty-six billion dollars in 2015 to over one trillion
18 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 4, 2016, 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 handling 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.

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

DIGEST

SCR 81 Original

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