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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2026

SENATE RESOLUTION

COMMEMORATING MARCH 31, 2026 AS "ALZHEIMER'S ASSOCIATION OF RHODE ISLAND ADVOCACY AND AWARENESS DAY" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senators DiPalma, Sosnowski, Acosta, Mack, Kallman, Tikoian, Zurier, Ujifusa, Paolino, and Murray

Date Introduced: April 02, 2026

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is a progressive and irreversible neurological disorder
2 that impairs memory, thinking, and behavior and is the most common cause of dementia among
3 older adults; and

4 WHEREAS, There are approximately 24,000 adults aged 65 and older living with
5 Alzheimer's disease in the State of Rhode Island, representing nearly 11 percent of the State's
6 senior population, and this number is expected to increase as the population ages; and

7 WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease represents a growing public health crisis, placing a
8 profound emotional, physical, and financial burden on individuals, families, caregivers, and
9 communities; and

10 WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease affects not only those diagnosed but also a vast
11 network of family members and caregivers who provide extensive unpaid care, often managing
12 complex medical, emotional, and daily living needs while facing significant personal, financial,
13 and workforce challenges; and

14 WHEREAS, In response to the growing Alzheimer's crisis, states are assuming a leading
15 role in meeting the care and support needs of affected families while addressing its increasing
16 impact on healthcare systems and state economies; and

17 WHEREAS, The State of Rhode Island has made meaningful progress in addressing
18 Alzheimer's disease and related disorders through the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders
19 (ADRD) State Plan and the ADRD Program at the Rhode Island Department of Health,

1 establishing itself as a leader in confronting the challenges of the disease; and

2 WHEREAS, The Alzheimer’s Association of Rhode Island provides critical services,
3 including free education programs, caregiver support groups, and a 24/7 helpline, to assist
4 individuals and families navigating Alzheimer’s disease; and

5 WHEREAS, Raising public awareness, advocating for stronger care and research
6 policies, and supporting individuals and families affected by Alzheimer’s disease, are all central
7 to the mission of the Alzheimer’s Association of Rhode Island; and

8 WHEREAS, Alzheimer’s Association Rhode Island State Advocacy Day, to be held on
9 March 31, 2026, at the Rhode Island State House, provides an important opportunity for
10 advocates, caregivers, and community members to raise awareness and promote continued action
11 to address Alzheimer’s disease. Individuals are encouraged to wear purple as a symbol of their
12 support; now, therefore be it

13 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island hereby commemorates March
14 31, 2026, as "Alzheimer's Association of Rhode Island Advocacy and Awareness Day,"
15 recognizes Alzheimer’s disease as a critical public health issue, and encourages all Rhode
16 Islanders to support individuals and families affected by the disease; and be it further

17 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
18 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to the Alzheimer’s Association of Rhode Island.

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