

STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2018

SENATE RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING MAY 8, 2018 TO BE "ALZHEIMER'S AWARENESS DAY" IN THE STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Senators Satchell, Ruggerio, Metts, Algieri, and Lombardi

Date Introduced: May 08, 2018

Referred To: Recommended for Immediate Consideration

1 WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease, a progressive neurodegenerative brain disorder,
2 tragically robs individuals of their memories and leads to progressive mental and physical
3 impairments; and

4 WHEREAS, Someone develops Alzheimer's disease every 66 seconds; and

5 WHEREAS, There are no known treatments to prevent, cure, or even delay the onset or
6 slow the progression of Alzheimer's disease; and

7 WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is on the rise with over 5 million Americans aged 65
8 and over living with the disease and another 200,000 people under age 65 having younger-onset
9 Alzheimer's disease; and

10 WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is the sixth leading cause of death, more than breast and
11 prostate cancer combined, and the fifth leading cause among the elderly; and

12 WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is an unrelenting, progressive condition that destroys
13 brain cells. Alzheimer's places significant financial burdens on families and businesses with
14 businesses losing billions a year in lost productivity and replacement expenses for employees
15 who miss work or quit to care for a relative; and

16 WHEREAS, According to the Alzheimer's Association's Facts and Figures report, the
17 direct costs of caring for those with Alzheimer's to American society is valued at \$259 billion and
18 more than 15 million caregivers provided over 18 billion hours of unpaid care for those with
19 Alzheimer's and other dementias in 2016. In Rhode Island, nearly 53,000 family members and

1 friends cared for people with Alzheimer's and other dementias, providing 61 million hours of
2 unpaid care, with the annual value of this caregiving totaling \$766 million; and

3 WHEREAS, The impact of Alzheimer's and other dementias on Rhode Island families,
4 the health care system, and society as a whole is of great importance; and the need for home and
5 community-based services for those with Alzheimer's is on the rise and caregiver stress is at an
6 all-time high; and

7 WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is a looming public health crisis and there is a need for
8 all policy makers to join in the efforts to raise awareness and to serve the hundreds of thousands
9 of persons with Alzheimer's and other dementias in Rhode Island, their families, and caregivers;
10 and

11 WHEREAS, The mission of the Alzheimer's Association is to eliminate Alzheimer's
12 disease and other dementias through the advancement of research and promotion of brain health
13 and to enhance care and support for all individuals with Alzheimer's disease and their families
14 and caregivers; and

15 WHEREAS, On May 8, 2018, Alzheimer's advocates will speak up for the needs and
16 rights of people with Alzheimer's and their families in order to make Alzheimer's disease a
17 priority public health issue in the State of Rhode Island; now, therefore be it

18 RESOLVED, That this Senate of the State of Rhode Island and Providence Plantations
19 hereby recognizes the individuals, families, friends, and caregivers dealing with Alzheimer's
20 disease, the researchers who are seeking a cause or cure, and the efforts of the Alzheimer's
21 Association to raise funds and promote awareness in order to fight Alzheimer's and other
22 dementias, thereby improving the quality of human life for those living with Alzheimer's and
23 their caregivers; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That this Senate hereby commends the Rhode Island Chapter of the
25 Alzheimer's Association for the outstanding job they are doing to fight this terrible disease and to
26 advocate for those living with the disease, and furthermore proclaims May 8, 2018, to be
27 "Alzheimer's Awareness Day" in the State of Rhode Island; and be it further

28 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and hereby is authorized and directed to
29 transmit a duly certified copy of this resolution to Ms. Donna McGowan, Executive Director,
30 Rhode Island Chapter, Alzheimer's Association.

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