

2020 -- H 7950

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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2020

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HOUSE RESOLUTION

PROCLAIMING MARCH 3, 2020, TO BE "ALZHEIMER'S AWARENESS DAY" IN THE  
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

Introduced By: Representatives Mattiello, Shekarchi, Ruggiero, Abney, and Ackerman

Date Introduced: March 03, 2020

Referred To: House read and passed

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 65 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 5.8 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 in 2019 is estimated to be  
18 \$290 billion with more than 16 million caregivers providing over 18.5 billion hours of unpaid  
19 care for those with Alzheimer's and other dementias. In Rhode Island, in 2018, nearly 53,000

1 family members and friends cared for people with Alzheimer's and other dementias, providing 61  
2 million hours of unpaid care, with the annual value of this caregiving totaling \$769 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 March 3, 2020, 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 House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island and  
19 Providence Plantations hereby recognizes the individuals, families, friends, and caregivers  
20 dealing with Alzheimer's disease, the researchers who are seeking a cause or cure, and the efforts  
21 of the Alzheimer's Association to raise funds and promote awareness in order to fight Alzheimer's  
22 and other dementias, thereby improving the quality of human life for those living with  
23 Alzheimer's and their caregivers; and be it further

24 RESOLVED, That this House 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 March 3, 2020, 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. Jacqueline Waldon, CPA, President, Rhode  
30 Island Chapter, Alzheimer's Association.

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