

**2025 -- H 6115**

=====  
LC002427  
=====

**STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

**IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY**

**JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2025**

**H O U S E R E S O L U T I O N**

**PROCLAIMING MARCH 20, 2025, TO BE "ALZHEIMER'S AWARENESS DAY" IN THE  
STATE OF RHODE ISLAND**

Introduced By: Representatives Ackerman, Shekarchi, Blazejewski, McNamara,  
Chippendale, Serpa, Finkelman, Fogarty, Corvese, and Casey

Date Introduced: March 20, 2025

Referred To: House read and passed

1           WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is a degenerative brain disease, and the most common  
2 form of dementia that results in loss of memory and other cognitive function, and eventually  
3 death; and

4           WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is the seventh leading cause of death in the United  
5 States and the fifth leading cause of death for persons aged 65 and over; and

6           WHEREAS, It is estimated that one in three seniors dies from Alzheimer's disease or  
7 another dementia, more than breast cancer and prostate cancer combined; and

8           WHEREAS, An estimated 7 million people in the United States are living with  
9 Alzheimer's disease, and this number is anticipated to increase to 12.7 million by 2050; and

10          WHEREAS, The direct costs to the United States caring for individuals living with  
11 Alzheimer's disease in 2024 was estimated to be \$360 billion, increasing to nearly \$1 trillion by  
12 2050, making it the most expensive disease in America; and

13          WHEREAS, More than 24,000 Rhode Islanders are living with Alzheimer's disease, and  
14 an estimated 36,000 family caregivers provide approximately 51 million hours of unpaid care  
15 valued at more than \$1.1 billion; and

16          WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is the fifth leading cause of death in Rhode Island for  
17 persons 65 years of age or older; and

18          WHEREAS, Older Black Americans face nearly 2 times, and Latino Americans face  
19 nearly 1.5 times higher risk of developing Alzheimer's disease; and

1           WHEREAS, Rhode Island's per capita Medicare spending on people with dementia is  
2 \$30,782, and Rhode Island's Medicaid costs of caring for people with Alzheimer's disease is  
3 nearly \$500 million; and

4           WHEREAS, Caregiving for individuals with Alzheimer's disease often takes an  
5 enormous toll on family members; caregivers themselves often suffer more stress, depression, and  
6 health problems than caregivers of people with other illnesses; and

7           WHEREAS, An increasing number of individuals are developing younger-onset  
8 Alzheimer's disease, a form of the disease that occurs prior to age 65 and can be particularly  
9 difficult on family dynamics and economics due to its early occurrence; and

10          WHEREAS, As the population of older adults in Rhode Island continues to grow, there  
11 will be an increased demand for residential, home-based, and community-based services that will  
12 in turn mean an increased demand for direct care workers, including home health aides, certified  
13 nursing assistants, and personal care aides; and

14          WHEREAS, Advocates are visiting the State House today, to raise awareness and inform  
15 legislators of the challenges they face navigating Alzheimer's and all other dementias; now,  
16 therefore be it

17          RESOLVED, That this House of Representatives of the State of Rhode Island hereby  
18 proclaims March 20, 2025, as "Alzheimer's Awareness Day" in the State of Rhode Island; and be  
19 it further

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

=====  
LC002427  
=====