

1 STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2 2nd Session of the 56th Legislature (2018)

3 SENATE
4 RESOLUTION 24

By: McCortney

5
6 AS INTRODUCED

7 A Resolution urging the Commissioners of the Oklahoma
8 State Department of Health to designate Alzheimer's
9 disease and other dementias as a public health issue;
10 and directing distribution.

11 WHEREAS, it is the intent of the Oklahoma Senate to increase
12 awareness of Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, address
13 cognitive impairment, promote brain health and meet the needs of
14 caregivers; and

15 WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease, which currently has no cure, is
16 the sixth leading cause of death in adults age 18 or older in the
17 United States; and

18 WHEREAS, with no known way to slow or prevent Alzheimer's
19 disease, essential public health services of early detection, risk
20 reduction and surveillance are necessary to protect and improve the
21 health at a population level; and

22 WHEREAS, in conjunction with the Centers for Disease Control and
23 Prevention (CDC), the State of Oklahoma annually conducts the
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1 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System (BRFSS) survey to gather
2 statewide public health data; and

3 WHEREAS, in the 2015 BRFSS survey, 13.6 percent - one in seven -
4 Oklahomans aged 45 and older reported an increase in confusion or
5 worsening memory loss and over half of them (55.7 percent) had not
6 discussed these cognitive concerns with a health care provider; and

7 WHEREAS, caregiving for individuals with Alzheimer's disease
8 often takes an enormous toll on family members; caregivers
9 themselves often suffer more stress, depression and health problems
10 than caregivers of people with other illnesses; and

11 WHEREAS, we recognize the important role the State Department of
12 Health plays in promoting and encouraging health behaviors among the
13 general public, increasing early detection and diagnosis of disease
14 and disability, reducing risk of future injury and illness,
15 educating the health care workforce and monitoring the health of the
16 state.

17 NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION
18 OF THE 56TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

19 THAT the Oklahoma Senate urges the Commissioners of the State
20 Department of Health to designate Alzheimer's disease and other
21 dementias as a public health issue.

22 THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to the
23 Commissioners of the State Department of Health.

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