
THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 253 Session of
2015

INTRODUCED BY BROOKS AND HAYWOOD, NOVEMBER 24, 2015

INTRODUCED AND ADOPTED, NOVEMBER 24, 2015

A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of November 2015 as "Alzheimer's Disease
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is an irreversible degenerative
4 brain disorder affecting more than five million Americans; and

5 WHEREAS, As many as 400,000 Pennsylvanians have Alzheimer's
6 disease or a related disorder, ranking this Commonwealth fifth
7 in the nation in the occurrence of the disease; and

8 WHEREAS, We can expect the number of Pennsylvanians diagnosed
9 with Alzheimer's disease or related disorders to increase as
10 this Commonwealth's population ages; and

11 WHEREAS, There is no known cure for Alzheimer's and those
12 with the disease become increasingly reliant on caregivers
13 throughout the course of the disease; and

14 WHEREAS, Although 7% of Pennsylvania's nursing home beds are
15 dedicated to people with Alzheimer's disease, 70% of
16 Pennsylvanians with Alzheimer's disease or related disorders
17 live at home; and

18 WHEREAS, Informal caregivers, such as spouses, children,

1 siblings and friends, provide the daily assistance that allows
2 these individuals to remain at home for as long as possible; and

3 WHEREAS, The focus of this year's "Alzheimer's Disease
4 Awareness Month" is on the impact of this disease on the
5 informal caregiver; and

6 WHEREAS, In 2014, 671,000 Pennsylvanians provided over 765
7 million hours of unpaid care to a loved one with Alzheimer's
8 disease or related disorders, saving the Commonwealth more than
9 \$9.3 billion in care costs; and

10 WHEREAS, Nationally, more than 15 million Americans provide
11 unpaid care for people with Alzheimer's disease or related
12 disorders; and

13 WHEREAS, While the typical caregiver is a woman with a full-
14 time job and a family of her own to look after, an estimated
15 250,000 children between 8 and 18 years of age provide help to
16 someone with Alzheimer's disease or related disorders; and

17 WHEREAS, The demands and financial challenges of caregiving
18 create a great deal of stress for caregivers, which, in turn,
19 puts their health at risk; and

20 WHEREAS, The Pennsylvania Alzheimer's Disease Planning
21 Committee, created to develop a State plan to address this
22 growing epidemic, finalized its report last year recommending
23 improvements in caregiver support; and

24 WHEREAS, A recurring concern when the planning committee was
25 conducting its research was the lack of caregiver support and
26 respite programs; and

27 WHEREAS, Respite eases the physical and emotional demands of
28 caregiving, helping to prevent caregiver burn-out and enabling
29 the care recipient to stay at home longer; therefore be it

30 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the month of November

1 2015 as "Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania;
2 and be it further

3 RESOLVED, That we take this time to realize the impact
4 Alzheimer's disease and related disorders place on our informal
5 caregivers and recognize their sacrifices and contributions to
6 caring for those diagnosed with Alzheimer's disease.