

No. R-398. House concurrent resolution designating March 30, 2016 as Alzheimer's Awareness and Advocacy Day in Vermont.

(H.C.R.311)

Offered by: All Members of the House

Offered by: Senators Ashe, Ayer, Balint, Baruth, Benning, Bray, Campbell, Campion, Collamore, Cummings, Degree, Doyle, Flory, Kitchel, Lyons, MacDonald, Mazza, McCormack, Mullin, Nitka, Pollina, Rodgers, Sears, Sirotkin, Starr, Westman, White, and Zuckerman

Whereas, Alzheimer's disease is currently the fifth leading cause of death in Vermont with a new case developing every 67 seconds, and

Whereas, the total Medicaid costs for Vermonters 65 years of age or older living with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias are projected to rise from \$90 million in 2015 to \$140 million in 2025, a total increase of 56.0 percent, and

Whereas, there are more than 200,000 individuals nationwide living with younger-onset Alzheimer's disease, and

Whereas, care partners struggle to find financial assistance and support in caring for relatives, and in 2014, the physical and emotional toll of caregiving for Alzheimer's and other dementias resulted in \$9.7 billion in additional national health care costs, and

Whereas, it is estimated that nationwide 250,000 children and young adults, between eight and 18 years of age, provide help to someone with Alzheimer's disease or another dementia, and

Whereas, in Vermont, 10.4 percent of those 45 years of age or over report they are experiencing confusion or memory loss that is happening more often or is getting worse, and nearly three-quarters of this population have not consulted a health care professional, and

Whereas, only 45 percent of persons with Alzheimer's disease or their caregivers are given a diagnosis unlike 90 percent of persons with the four most common types of cancer, and

Whereas, Alzheimer's especially impacts women, and

Whereas, without further action, it is projected that nationwide in 2050, the financial cost of Alzheimer's, in 2015 dollars, will exceed one trillion dollars, and

Whereas, this amount would represent a fivefold increase in Medicaid and Medicare and nearly as large a percentage increase in private expenditures for Alzheimer's related expenses, and

Whereas, today, Wednesday, March 30, 2016, Vermont families, care partners, and persons with Alzheimer's are visiting the State House, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates March 30, 2016 as Alzheimer's Awareness and Advocacy Day in Vermont, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the Vermont Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association.