

No. R-179. House concurrent resolution acknowledging the many Vermonters living with Alzheimer's disease and designating April 1 as Alzheimer's Awareness Day.

(H.C.R.125)

Offered by: All Members of the House

Offered by: All Members of the Senate

Whereas, Alzheimer's is one of society's most tragic illnesses as it causes individuals to lose their life memories, and prevents individuals, who had the gift of remembering the most detailed information and performing intricate tasks, from even recognizing family members, and

Whereas, this debilitating disease is not a normal part of aging, and

Whereas, although Alzheimer's is not the only medical cause of memory loss, it is the most common form of dementia, and

Whereas, Alzheimer's only worsens over time, but the disease is not an instant killer as afflicted individuals typically live with it for a number of years, and

Whereas, Alzheimer's has an extremely emotional impact on friends and families who are forced to witness the deterioration of an individual's personality, and family members often sadly conclude they have no option except institutionalization, and

Whereas, although medical researchers are advancing their knowledge of Alzheimer's, the cure that is fervently desired has yet to emerge, and

Whereas, in 1999, the General Assembly enacted Act 57, establishing the commission on Alzheimer's disease and related disorders to "advise state

agencies on matters of state policy relating to Alzheimer's disease and other dementia-related disorders," including: evaluating existing state services and advising on their potential expansion, reviewing and participating in the development of laws and rules that may affect individuals with either Alzheimer's or another dementia-related disorder, and broadening public understanding and capacity to meet the needs of individuals with Alzheimer's, and

Whereas, the work of the commission and the Vermont chapter of the national Alzheimer's Association is extremely important, and

Whereas, on April 1, 2011, members of the commission and others working to improve the lives of those with Alzheimer's will be visiting the state house to educate the legislature about this serious disease, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly acknowledges the many Vermonters living with Alzheimer's disease and designates April 1, 2011 as Alzheimer's Awareness Day, and be it further

Resolved: That the Secretary of State be directed to send a copy of this resolution to the commission on Alzheimer's disease and related disorders and to the Vermont chapter of the Alzheimer's Association.