

State of Vermont House of Representatives



Montpelier, Vermont

Concurrent House Resolution

H.C.R. 117

House concurrent resolution designating April 19, 2013 as Alzheimer's Awareness Day at the State House

Offered by: All Members of the House

Offered by: All Members of the Senate

Whereas, Alzheimer's disease is a severe form of dementia that is the sixth leading cause of death in the United States, and

Whereas, more than five million Americans are living with Alzheimer's, and the Alzheimer's Association is projecting that by the year 2050, with a larger percentage of Americans over age 65, 13.8 million Americans will be the victims of this disease, barring medical progress, and

Whereas, as of 2010, approximately 11,000 Vermonters had Alzheimer's, and this figure is projected to rise to 13,000 by 2025, and

Whereas, in 2013, the national cost to treat Alzheimer's is \$203 billion, and

Whereas, a recently released RAND Corporation study, the results of which were reported this month in *The New York Times* and in the *New England Journal of Medicine*, is projecting that overall dementia-related costs in the United States will double by 2040, and

Whereas, Dr. Ronald Petersen, Chair of the Advisory Panel for the recently created National Alzheimer's Plan, described this projection as somewhat conservative, and

Whereas, Dr. Richard J. Hodes, Director of the National Institute on Aging, has stated he is unaware of any other disease with this large a projected cost increase, and

Whereas, in 2012, 15.4 million caregivers provided more than 17.5 billion hours of unpaid care, and nearly 15 percent of the caregivers for people with Alzheimer's or another form of dementia were long-distance caregivers, and

Whereas, the RAND study estimated the value of informal and unpaid family care as between \$50 billion and \$106 billion, depending on if it is assessed as lost income for the family or the cost of a professional caregiver, and

Whereas, experts agree that the informal care costs for dementia diseases are greater than for most other diseases, and

Whereas, although research continues, the cure for Alzheimer's remains elusive, and

Whereas, members of the Vermont Chapter of the Alzheimer's Association are visiting the State House today, April 19, 2013, now therefore be it

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates April 19, 2013 as Alzheimer's Awareness Day at the State House, 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.