

No. R-286. House concurrent resolution designating April 9, 2026, as Alzheimer's Awareness Day at the State House.

(H.C.R.234)

Offered by Representative Noyes of Wolcott

Whereas, “dementia is a general term for loss of memory, language, problem-solving and other thinking abilities that [is] severe enough to interfere with daily life,” and Alzheimer’s, the most common form of dementia, is a progressive disease, and

Whereas, in 2025, over 12,000 Vermonters were living with Alzheimer’s and 20,000 caregivers provided 29 million hours of unpaid care, valued at \$773 million, and

Whereas, dementia caregivers report higher rates of emotional, physical, and financial stress than do caregivers of individuals with other types of illnesses, and

Whereas, more than one in five caregivers in Vermont are providing care to an individual with Alzheimer’s or another form of dementia, and

Whereas, over 10 percent of dementia caregivers in Vermont report being in frequent poor physical health, and, nationally, a significant percentage report problems due to the state of their mental health, and

Whereas, Vermont has prioritized support for dementia caregivers through the Dementia Respite Grant program that the Department of Disabilities, Aging, and Independent Living and the Area Agencies on Aging jointly administer, and

Whereas, the Dementia Respite Grant program allows dementia caregivers to have a brief break to take care of their own needs and to reduce caregiver burnout, and, importantly, this initiative aims to keep individuals in their communities and helps to defer the necessity of Medicaid support for as long as possible, and

Whereas, today, April 9, 2026, family members, caregivers, and medical professionals are gathered at the State House to inform the General Assembly of the financial, personal, and societal implications of Alzheimer’s disease in Vermont, *now therefore be it*

Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives:

That the General Assembly designates April 9, 2026, 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.