

THE GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF PENNSYLVANIA

# SENATE RESOLUTION

No. 342 Session of  
2020

INTRODUCED BY COLLETT, SABATINA, ARNOLD, MUTH, KILLION,  
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BROWNE, J. WARD, SCAVELLO, STREET, COSTA, SCHWANK, MENSCH,  
TARTAGLIONE AND PITTMAN, JUNE 30, 2020

REFERRED TO RULES AND EXECUTIVE NOMINATIONS, JUNE 30, 2020

## A RESOLUTION

1 Designating the month of June 2020 as "Alzheimer's and Brain  
2 Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania.

3 WHEREAS, The month of June is "Alzheimer's and Brain  
4 Awareness Month," and the Alzheimer's Association seeks support  
5 to raise awareness of this debilitating disease and the need to  
6 increase efforts to combat its human and economic costs in  
7 addition to the public health burden throughout this  
8 Commonwealth; and

9 WHEREAS, The summer solstice, June 20, 2020, has been  
10 declared "The Longest Day," with teams around the world coming  
11 together to honor the strength, passion and endurance of  
12 individuals facing Alzheimer's disease with a day of activity  
13 and advocacy to carry out the slogan "The Day With the Most  
14 Light is the Day We Fight"; and

15 WHEREAS, Every individual in our communities is at risk for  
16 developing Alzheimer's, a fatal disease that cannot be  
17 prevented, treated or even slowed; and

1 WHEREAS, It is estimated that more than 5 million Americans  
2 of all ages are living with Alzheimer's, including 200,000  
3 people under 65 years of age who have younger-onset Alzheimer's  
4 in the United States, and more than 280,000 Pennsylvanians 65  
5 years of age and older living with the disease; and

6 WHEREAS, Barring the development of medical breakthroughs,  
7 the number of people 65 years of age or older with Alzheimer's  
8 may almost triple to nearly 14 million people by 2050; and

9 WHEREAS, Alzheimer's is the sixth leading cause of death in  
10 the United States and Pennsylvania, and one in three seniors  
11 dies with Alzheimer's or another dementia; and

12 WHEREAS, During 2019 in the United States, more than 16  
13 million Americans provided 18.6 billion hours of unpaid care to  
14 individuals with Alzheimer's and other dementias and that care  
15 had an estimated economic value of \$244 billion; and

16 WHEREAS, In 2019, Pennsylvania had an estimated 677,000  
17 Alzheimer's and dementia caregivers providing 770 million hours  
18 of unpaid care valued at more than \$10.1 billion; and

19 WHEREAS, Those with Alzheimer's and dementia require more  
20 support and resources as cognitive, behavioral and physical  
21 functioning worsens over time, placing enormous burdens on  
22 government budgets and out-of-pocket expenses; and

23 WHEREAS, The lifetime cost of care for those with dementia is  
24 nearly double the cost of care of those without dementia; and

25 WHEREAS, In 2020, Alzheimer's and other dementias will cost  
26 the nation \$305 billion, and total payments for health care,  
27 long-term care and hospice care are expected to reach more than  
28 \$1.1 trillion by 2050; and

29 WHEREAS, Since the Alzheimer's and dementia continuum spans  
30 decades, it provides many opportunities to model public health

1 approaches to change outcomes, expand early detection and  
2 diagnosis and improve safety and quality of care for people  
3 living with cognitive impairment, all while attending to the  
4 caregiver's health and well-being; and

5 WHEREAS, Eighty-two percent of seniors say it is important to  
6 have their thinking skills or memory checked by a primary care  
7 doctor, but only 16% of seniors report receiving regular  
8 cognitive assessments, underscoring the need for older adults  
9 and doctors to proactively discuss cognitive health during  
10 routine exams that could lead to early diagnosis and promote  
11 better care planning and quality of life; and

12 WHEREAS, Researchers in Pennsylvania and around the world  
13 continue their efforts to develop scientific breakthroughs and  
14 public health interventions that could one day bring about a  
15 world without Alzheimer's disease; and

16 WHEREAS, The individuals, families, friends and caregivers  
17 dealing with Alzheimer's disease and the researchers who are  
18 seeking a cause or cure should be recognized; and

19 WHEREAS, The efforts of the Alzheimer's Association to raise  
20 funds and promote awareness to fight Alzheimer's disease and  
21 other dementias improve the quality of human life for  
22 individuals living with Alzheimer's disease and their  
23 caregivers; therefore be it

24 RESOLVED, That the Senate designate the month of June 2020 as  
25 "Alzheimer's Disease and Brain Awareness Month" in Pennsylvania;  
26 and be it further

27 RESOLVED, That, in an effort to raise more awareness about  
28 the disease's prevalence, the Senate:

- 29 (1) recognize that Alzheimer's is a public health crisis  
30 that impacts everyone throughout this Commonwealth and early

1 detection and diagnosis is paramount;

2 (2) encourage Pennsylvanians to wear purple throughout  
3 the month of June in support of family and friends living  
4 with the disease; and

5 (3) encourage Pennsylvanians to participate in one of  
6 the Alzheimer's Association "The Longest Day" local  
7 activities.