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STATE OF RHODE ISLAND

IN GENERAL ASSEMBLY

JANUARY SESSION, A.D. 2012

J O I N T R E S O L U T I O N

**AFFIRMING THE NEED FOR A STATE PLAN FOR ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE AND
RELATED DISORDERS**

Introduced By: Representatives Bennett, Hull, McLaughlin, Silva, and Blazejewski

Date Introduced: April 11, 2012

Referred To: House Health, Education & Welfare

1 WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is a fatal, degenerative disease of the brain that impairs
2 cognitive function, memory, and behavior; and

3 WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is not part of the normal aging process; and

4 WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is the sixth leading cause of death in the United States
5 and the fifth leading cause of death for those over 65 years of age; and

6 WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is the only leading cause of death that cannot be
7 prevented, cured, or even slowed; and

8 WHEREAS, An estimated 5.4 million people nationwide have Alzheimer's disease,
9 including 200,000 individuals under the age of 65; and

10 WHEREAS, In 2010, approximately 24,000 Rhode Island residents were living with
11 Alzheimer's disease; and

12 WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is the most common type of dementia, accounting for
13 an estimated sixty to eighty percent of incidence; and

14 WHEREAS, People living with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders use hospital,
15 nursing home, and other health and long-term care services at a high rate, resulting in high costs
16 to Medicare, Medicaid, and other payers; and

17 WHEREAS, Medicaid payments for beneficiaries over the age of 65 with Alzheimer's
18 disease are nine times higher than payments for those without the disease; and

1 WHEREAS, By the year 2050, the total cost of care nationally for individuals with
2 Alzheimer's disease is expected to soar from \$172 billion in 2010, to more than \$1 trillion (in
3 today's dollars); and

4 WHEREAS, Medicaid's share of that spending will increase over 400 percent during that
5 time; and

6 WHEREAS, These costs do not reflect the value of unpaid care provided to those living
7 with Alzheimer's disease by family members and friends; and

8 WHEREAS, There are over 50,000 unpaid caregivers providing an estimated 60 million
9 hours of uncompensated care for people living with Alzheimer's disease; and

10 WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease takes a tremendous emotional toll on all whose lives it
11 touches, including family members, friends, and especially the caregivers of those living with
12 Alzheimer's disease; and

13 WHEREAS, Caregiving has negative effects on the caregiver's own employment,
14 income, financial security, and health; and

15 WHEREAS, The projected growth in the aging population of Rhode Island, combined
16 with the particular needs of the Alzheimer's disease population, present a substantial and unique
17 challenge to the state; and

18 WHEREAS, On January 4, 2011, President Obama signed into law the National
19 Alzheimer's Project Act (NAPA), requiring the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Health and
20 Human Services to establish a national Alzheimer's Project; and

21 WHEREAS, On February 22, 2012, the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services
22 released a Draft National Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease, which includes the goal of
23 preventing or treating Alzheimer's disease by 2025; and

24 WHEREAS, Rhode Island has a significant opportunity to build upon this national
25 momentum, as well as to identify and address the distinct needs and unique challenges to the state
26 posed by Alzheimer's disease and related disorders; now therefore be it,

27 RESOLVED, That this General Assembly of the State of Rhode Island and Providence
28 Plantations hereby affirms the need for a state plan for Alzheimer's disease and related disorders,
29 which shall serve as a comprehensive state strategy for educating the public about Alzheimer's
30 disease, collecting and analyzing statewide data related to the current and future needs of
31 Alzheimer's patients and their caregivers, and recommending ways to improve the provision of
32 care and availability of community supports for those living with Alzheimer's disease and their
33 caregivers; and be it further

34 RESOLVED, That the Long-Term Care Coordinating Council, as established in R.I.G.L.

1 23-17.3, convene an Alzheimer's disease and related disorders working group (hereafter
2 "working group"), to be co-chaired by the chair of the Long-Term Care Coordinating Council, the
3 lieutenant governor or designee, and the director of the division of elderly affairs, for the purpose
4 of developing such a state plan; and be it further

5 RESOLVED, That the working group consist of community stakeholders, including, but
6 not limited to, members of the long-term care coordinating council; and be it further

7 RESOLVED, That the working group shall transmit to the governor and to the general
8 assembly a state plan for Alzheimer's disease and related disorders on or before July 1, 2013; and
9 be it further

10 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State be and he hereby is authorized and directed to
11 transmit duly certified copies of this resolution to the Governor of the State of Rhode Island, the
12 Lieutenant Governor of the State of Rhode Island, the Secretary of Health and Human Services,
13 the Chairperson of the Long-Term Care Coordinating Council, and the Director of the Division of
14 Elderly Affairs.

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