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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, Medicaid payments for beneficiaries over the age of 65 with Alzheimer’s
disease are nine times higher than payments for those without the disease; and
WHEREAS, By the year 2050, the total cost of care nationally for individuals with Alzheimer’s disease is expected to soar from $172 billion in 2010, to more than $1 trillion (in today’s dollars); and

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

RESOLVED, That the Long-Term Care Coordinating Council, as established in R.I.G.L.
23-17.3, convene an Alzheimer’s disease and related disorders working group (hereafter “working group”), to be co-chaired by the chair of the Long-Term Care Coordinating Council, the lieutenant governor or designee, and the director of the division of elderly affairs, for the purpose of developing such a state plan; and be it further

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

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

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

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