

1 HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION

2 WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is a progressive  
3 degenerative disease of the brain that affects numerous  
4 Illinois citizens; and

5 WHEREAS, Over 200,000 citizens of Illinois are afflicted  
6 with Alzheimer's disease; 10% of persons over the age of 65  
7 and nearly 50% of persons over the age of 85 suffer from the  
8 disease; over 50% of all nursing home residents have  
9 Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia; and

10 WHEREAS, 70% of people with Alzheimer's disease live at  
11 home, and 75% of these individuals depend upon the care of  
12 family and friends; frequently, the family caregivers' health  
13 is compromised due to the stress of providing care; and

14 WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is extremely costly; the  
15 average lifetime cost of Alzheimer's disease is \$174,000 per  
16 person; the cost of home care can exceed \$18,000 per year and  
17 the cost of nursing home care averages \$42,000 per year; and

18 WHEREAS, A significant function of government is to  
19 promote the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens;  
20 therefore, be it

21 RESOLVED, BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE  
22 NINETY-THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE  
23 SENATE CONCURRING HEREIN, that the Illinois Legislative  
24 Alzheimer's Disease Task Force is created, to consist of 8  
25 members of the Illinois General Assembly appointed as  
26 follows: 2 members of the Senate appointed by the President  
27 of the Senate, one of whom shall serve as co-chairman; 2  
28 members of the Senate appointed by the Minority Leader of the  
29 Senate; 2 members of the House of Representatives appointed  
30 by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, one of whom  
31 shall serve as co-chairman; and 2 members of the House of

1 Representatives appointed by the Minority Leader of the House  
2 of Representatives; all Task Force members shall serve  
3 without compensation but shall be reimbursed for their  
4 reasonable and necessary expenses from funds appropriated for  
5 that purpose; and be it further

6       RESOLVED, That the mission of the Task Force shall be to  
7 help optimize the quality of life for people who suffer from  
8 Alzheimer's disease and their families through advocacy,  
9 education, support, and services, while actively promoting  
10 research to eliminate the disease; the Task Force shall  
11 examine, along with any other issues it chooses to  
12 investigate with respect to Alzheimer's disease, the  
13 following issues: (1) the disease's facts, prevalence, and  
14 costs; (2) the financial barriers to essential care; (3) the  
15 continuum of care, including medical assessment or diagnosis,  
16 drug therapy, caregiver training and support, home and  
17 community based care, adult day services, residential care  
18 options, and hospice care; and (4) the training and  
19 qualifications of those who work with individuals with  
20 Alzheimer's disease; and be it further

21       RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall receive the  
22 assistance of legislative staff, may employ skilled experts  
23 with the approval of the President of the Senate, and shall  
24 report its findings to the General Assembly on or before  
25 December 1, 2003.