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SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

2           WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is a slow, progressive  
3 disorder of the brain that results in loss of memory and other  
4 cognitive functions and, eventually, results in death; and

5           WHEREAS, Because Alzheimer's is accompanied by memory  
6 loss, poor judgment, changes in personality and behavior, and a  
7 tendency to wander, individuals with this disease are at  
8 increased risk for accidental injury, getting lost, abuse,  
9 neglect, and exploitation; and

10           WHEREAS, With one in 10 people over age 65 and almost one  
11 in every two people over 85 having Alzheimer's disease or a  
12 related dementia, over the past 10 years the number of  
13 Illinoisans with Alzheimer's and related dementias has risen  
14 dramatically to the point that today over 210,000 people are  
15 affected; and

16           WHEREAS, As the baby boom generation enters the age of  
17 greatest risk for Alzheimer's, by 2025 their number in Illinois  
18 is expected to increase to over 239,000; and

19           WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease takes an enormous toll on  
20 loving family members, with an estimated one in four acting as  
21 a caregiver for each individual with the disease; and

1           WHEREAS, Caregivers for individuals with Alzheimer's watch  
2 closely the deleterious effects of the disease and often suffer  
3 more stress, depression, and health problems than caregivers of  
4 people with other illnesses; and

5           WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is considered to be early  
6 onset if an individual is younger than 65 when symptoms first  
7 appear, and early onset Alzheimer's can strike someone as early  
8 as their 30s, 40s, and 50s, with new data showing there may be  
9 half a million Americans under age 65 who have dementia or  
10 cognitive impairment at a level of severity consistent with  
11 dementia; and

12           WHEREAS, The State of Illinois has convened the Legislative  
13 Task Force on Alzheimer's Disease pursuant to House Joint  
14 Resolution 14 (93rd General Assembly); and

15           WHEREAS, The State of Illinois must not be complacent and  
16 must renew its commitment to develop a more aggressive State  
17 plan to ensure that the framework of programs and services to  
18 help Illinoisans with Alzheimer's and other related dementia  
19 are functioning and capable of meeting the challenge of this  
20 serious public health problem among Illinoisans; therefore, be  
21 it

1           RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-FIFTH GENERAL  
2 ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES  
3 CONCURRING HEREIN, that the Alzheimer's Disease and Other  
4 Related Dementia State Plan Council is created, to consist of  
5 the following: 8 members of the Illinois General Assembly  
6 appointed as follows: 2 members of the Senate appointed by the  
7 President of the Senate, one of whom shall serve as  
8 co-chairman; 2 members of the Senate appointed by the Minority  
9 Leader of the Senate; 2 members of the House of Representatives  
10 appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, one  
11 of whom shall serve as co-chairman; and 2 members of the House  
12 of Representatives appointed by the Minority Leader of the  
13 House of Representatives; the Director of the Illinois  
14 Department on Aging (or his or her designee); the Director of  
15 the Illinois Department of Public Health (or his or her  
16 designee); the Director of the Illinois Department of  
17 Healthcare and Family Services (or his or her designee); and 8  
18 members of the public appointed by the Governor, to include a  
19 representative of the Alzheimer's Association, a caregiver for  
20 a person with Alzheimer's Disease, and a person with  
21 early-stage Alzheimer's disease; Advisory Council members  
22 shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for  
23 their reasonable and necessary expenses from funds  
24 appropriated for that purpose; and be it further

25           RESOLVED, That the Alzheimer's Disease and Other Related

1 Dementia State Plan Council is directed to assess the current  
2 and future impact of Alzheimer's disease on Illinoisans, to  
3 examine the existing services and resources addressing the  
4 needs of persons with Alzheimer's and their families and  
5 caregivers, and to prepare, and develop a strategy to  
6 implement, an Alzheimer's Disease and Other Related Dementia  
7 State Plan in response to this public health crisis; and be it  
8 further

9       RESOLVED, That the Alzheimer's Disease and Other Related  
10 Dementia State Plan Council shall include in its Alzheimer's  
11 Disease and Other Related Dementia State Plan an examination of  
12 the following:

13           (1) trends in the State's Alzheimer's population and  
14 their needs, including the changing population with  
15 dementia, including but not limited to:

16                   (A) the State's role in long-term care, family  
17 caregiver support, and assistance to persons with  
18 early-stage and early onset Alzheimer's; and

19                   (B) the State's policy regarding persons with  
20 Alzheimer's and developmental disabilities;

21           (2) existing services, resources, and capacity,  
22 including but not limited to:

23                   (A) the type, cost, and availability of dementia  
24 services;

25                   (B) the capacity of public safety and law

1 enforcement to respond to persons with Alzheimer's;

2 (C) the availability of home and community-based  
3 resources for persons with Alzheimer's and respite  
4 care to assist families;

5 (D) an inventory of long-term care special  
6 dementia care units;

7 (E) the adequacy and appropriateness of  
8 geriatric-psychiatric units for persons with behavior  
9 disorders associated with Alzheimer's and related  
10 dementias;

11 (F) assisted living residential options for  
12 persons with dementia; and

13 (G) State support of Alzheimer's research through  
14 Illinois universities and other resources; and

15 (3) needed State policies and responses, including,  
16 but not limited to, recommendations for provision of clear  
17 and coordinated services and support to persons and  
18 families living with Alzheimer's and related disorders,  
19 and ways to address any identified gaps in service; and be  
20 it further

21 RESOLVED, That the Alzheimer's Disease and Other Related  
22 Dementia State Plan Council shall provide an Alzheimer's  
23 Disease and Other Related Dementia State Plan to the Governor  
24 and the General Assembly no later than January 1, 2009; and be  
25 it further

1           RESOLVED, That suitable copies of this resolution be  
2 delivered to the Governor, the Director of Aging, the Director  
3 of Public Health, and the Director of Healthcare and Family  
4 Services.