

HM 1045

2008

## 1 House Memorial

2 A memorial to the Congress of the United States, urging  
3 Congress to increase federal funding for Alzheimer's  
4 disease research.

5  
6 WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is a progressive degenerative  
7 disorder that destroys cells in the brain and is the leading  
8 cause of dementia, a condition that involves memory loss,  
9 decline in the ability to perform routine tasks, disorientation,  
10 difficulty in learning, loss of language skills, impairment of  
11 judgment, and personality changes, and

12 WHEREAS, as Alzheimer's disease progresses, individuals  
13 with the disease become unable to care for themselves, and

14 WHEREAS, as many as 5 million Americans have Alzheimer's  
15 disease, including approximately 500,000 Floridians, and, by  
16 2050, the number of individuals in the United States with the  
17 disease could range from 13 million to 16 million unless a way  
18 to prevent or cure the disease is discovered, and

19 WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease strikes approximately 1 in 10  
20 people over the age of 65 and nearly half of those who are age  
21 85 or older, and

22 WHEREAS, the average lifetime cost of care for an  
23 individual with Alzheimer's disease is \$170,000, and

24 WHEREAS, half of all nursing home residents have  
25 Alzheimer's disease or a related disorder, with the average  
26 annual cost of nursing home care for individuals with the  
27 disease exceeding \$70,000 per resident, and

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28 WHEREAS, Medicaid pays half of the total nursing home bills  
29 for individuals with Alzheimer's disease and helps 2 out of 3  
30 residents pay for their care, and

31 WHEREAS, Medicaid expenditures for nursing home care for  
32 individuals with Alzheimer's disease are estimated to increase  
33 from \$21 billion in 2005 to \$24 billion in 2010, and

34 WHEREAS, 1 in 8 caregivers for individuals with Alzheimer's  
35 disease becomes ill or injured as a direct result of caregiving,  
36 and 1 in 3 uses medication for problems related to caregiving,  
37 with older caregivers being 3 times more likely to become  
38 clinically depressed than others in their age group, and

39 WHEREAS, a 4-year study conducted by researchers from the  
40 University of Pittsburgh showed that elderly spouses strained by  
41 caregiving were 63 percent more likely to die during that 4-year  
42 period than their noncaregiving counterparts, and

43 WHEREAS, if our nation achieves its research goals of  
44 preventing the onset of Alzheimer's disease in those at risk and  
45 treating and delaying progression of the disease in those  
46 already ill, annual Medicare savings would be \$51 billion by  
47 2015 and \$88 billion by 2020, annual Medicaid savings would be  
48 \$10 billion in 2015 and \$17 billion by 2020, and the projected  
49 number of cases of the disease would be reduced by 40 percent by  
50 the middle of the century, and

51 WHEREAS, a cure for Alzheimer's disease may be achieved  
52 sooner by increasing funding of Alzheimer's disease research at  
53 established and reputable research institutes, and

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54 WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States appropriated  
55 \$642 million for Alzheimer's disease research during fiscal year  
56 2007-2008, NOW, THEREFORE,

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58 Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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60 That the Congress of the United States is urged to increase  
61 federal funding for Alzheimer's disease research by \$360 million  
62 during fiscal year 2008-2009.

63 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that copies of this memorial be  
64 dispatched to the President of the United States, to the  
65 President of the United States Senate, to the Speaker of the  
66 United States House of Representatives, and to each member of  
67 the Florida delegation to the United States Congress.