

By Senator Peaden

2-04270-08

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Senate Memorial

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, half of all nursing home residents have Alzheimer's disease or a related disorder, with the average annual cost of nursing home care for individuals with the 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 already
46 ill, annual Medicare savings would be \$51 billion by 2015 and \$88
47 billion by 2020, annual Medicaid savings would be \$10 billion in
48 2015 and \$17 billion by 2020, and the projected number of cases
49 of the disease would be reduced by 40 percent by the middle of
50 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

54 WHEREAS, the Congress of the United States appropriated \$642
55 million for Alzheimer's disease research during fiscal year 2007-
56 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 the
67 Florida delegation to the United States Congress.