

20082662er

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

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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, decline
9 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 with
13 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 to
18 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 85
21 or older, and

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

24 WHEREAS, half of all nursing home residents have Alzheimer's
25 disease or a related disorder, with the average annual cost of
26 nursing home care for individuals with the disease exceeding
27 \$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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Be It Resolved by the Legislature of the State of Florida:

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

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