

HR 9139

2009

House Resolution

1
2 A resolution encouraging participation in National Memory
3 Screening Day and honoring the caregivers and health care
4 providers of those who have Alzheimer's disease or other
5 memory problems.

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7 WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is a slow, progressive
8 disorder of the brain that results in loss of memory and other
9 cognitive function and, eventually, death, and

10 WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is the sixth leading cause of
11 death in the United States and currently affects an estimated
12 2.4 million to 4.5 million Americans, and

13 WHEREAS, in Florida alone, it is estimated that more than
14 500,000 people have Alzheimer's disease, and

15 WHEREAS, the stigma associated with the disease results in
16 a delay of diagnosis, in some cases up to 6 years, and

17 WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease takes an enormous toll on
18 family members, with an estimated one in four acting as
19 caregivers for each individual with the disease, and

20 WHEREAS, caregivers for individuals with Alzheimer's
21 disease suffer more stress, depression, and health problems than
22 caregivers for people with other illnesses, and

23 WHEREAS, recent advancements in scientific research have
24 demonstrated the benefits of early medical treatment for
25 individuals with Alzheimer's disease, as well as the benefits of
26 early access to counseling and other support services for their
27 caregivers, and

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28 WHEREAS, with an early diagnosis, individuals can avoid or
29 correct contributing medical problems, commence available
30 therapy, organize current and future care, and enhance self-
31 determination and caregivers can identify and embrace community
32 support services, and

33 WHEREAS, in direct response to research breakthroughs,
34 National Memory Screening Day was established by the Alzheimer's
35 Foundation of America (AFA) as a collaborative effort with local
36 organizations and health care professionals across the county to
37 promote awareness, early detection, and early diagnosis of
38 memory impairment so that individuals can obtain proper medical
39 treatment, social services, and other resources related to the
40 treatment of their condition, and

41 WHEREAS, National Memory Screening Day is held by the AFA
42 each third Tuesday in November in recognition of National
43 Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month and, on this day, health
44 care professionals administer free, confidential, face-to-face
45 memory screenings at thousands of sites throughout the United
46 States, and

47 WHEREAS, memory screening is not used to diagnose any
48 illness, but is used as an indicator to determine whether a
49 person might benefit from further examination by a qualified
50 health care provider, and

51 WHEREAS, memory screenings are a safe and cost-effective
52 intervention to direct at-risk individuals to appropriate
53 clinical resources, thus reducing the costs of long-term care or
54 hospitalization resulting from undiagnosed complications, and

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55 WHEREAS, screenings also greatly benefit those with normal
56 scores by checking their memory, allaying fears, and promoting
57 chronic disease prevention and successful aging, NOW, THEREFORE,
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59 Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of
60 Florida:

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62 That the Florida House of Representatives encourages all
63 Americans with memory concerns or who want to check their memory
64 to have annual memory screenings at National Memory Screening
65 Day sites or by other qualified professionals.

66 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Florida House of
67 Representatives congratulates state and local organizations
68 representing individuals with Alzheimer's disease or other
69 memory problems, caregivers, and health care professionals for
70 their commitment to improving the quality of life of individuals
71 and families confronting dementia by providing optimal care and
72 services.