

HR 9069

2011

## House Resolution

A resolution encouraging participation in National Memory Screening Day.

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

WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is the sixth leading cause of death in the United States and currently affects an estimated 5.4 million Americans, and

WHEREAS, in Florida alone, it is estimated that nearly 500,000 people have Alzheimer's disease, and

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, with an early diagnosis, individuals can avoid or correct contributing medical problems, commence available therapy, organize current and future care, and enhance self-

HR 9069

2011

29 | determination and caregivers can identify and embrace community  
30 | support services, and

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

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

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

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

53 |       WHEREAS, screenings also greatly benefit those with normal  
54 | scores by checking their memory, allaying fears, and promoting  
55 | chronic disease prevention and successful aging, NOW, THEREFORE,  
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HR 9069

2011

57 | Be It Resolved by the House of Representatives of the State of  
58 | Florida:

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60 |       That the Florida House of Representatives encourages all  
61 | Americans with memory concerns or who want to check their memory  
62 | to have memory screenings at National Memory Screening Day sites  
63 | or by other qualified professionals on November 15, 2011,  
64 | National Memory Screening Day.