

SENATE JOINT RESOLUTION

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WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is a progressive degenerative disease of the brain that affects numerous Illinois citizens; and

WHEREAS, 210,600 citizens of Illinois are afflicted with Alzheimer's disease; 10% of persons over the age of 65 and nearly 50% of persons over the age of 85 suffer from the disease; at least 50% of all nursing home residents have Alzheimer's disease or dementia; and

WHEREAS, 70% of people with Alzheimer's disease live at home, and 75% of these individuals depend upon the care of family and friends; frequently, the family caregivers' health is compromised due to the stress of providing care; and

WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is extremely costly; the average lifetime cost of Alzheimer's disease is \$174,000 per person; the cost of home care can exceed \$18,000 per year and the cost of nursing home care averages \$42,000 per year; and

WHEREAS, A significant function of government is to promote the health, safety, and welfare of its citizens; therefore be it

RESOLVED, BY THE SENATE OF THE NINETY-SECOND GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF ILLINOIS, THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CONCURRING HEREIN, that there be created the Illinois Legislative Alzheimer's Disease Task Force consisting of 8 members of the Illinois General Assembly appointed as follows: two members of the Senate appointed by the President of the Senate, one of whom to serve as co-chairman; two members of the Senate appointed by the Minority Leader of the Senate; two members of the House of Representatives appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives, one of whom to serve as co-chairman; and two

1 members of the House of Representatives appointed by the  
2 Minority Leader of the House of Representatives; all of whom  
3 shall serve without compensation but shall be reimbursed for  
4 their reasonable and necessary expenses from funds  
5 appropriated for that purpose; and be it further

6       RESOLVED, That the mission of the Task Force shall be to  
7 help optimize the quality of life for people who suffer from  
8 Alzheimer's disease and their families through advocacy,  
9 education, support, and services, while actively promoting  
10 research to eliminate the disease; the Task Force shall  
11 examine, along with any other issues it chooses to  
12 investigate with respect to Alzheimer's disease, the  
13 following issues: (1) the disease facts, prevalence, and  
14 costs; (2) the financial barriers to essential care; (3) the  
15 continuum of care, including medical assessment or diagnosis,  
16 drug therapy, caregiver training and support, home and  
17 community based care, adult day services, residential care  
18 options, and hospice care; and (4) the training and  
19 qualifications of those who work with individuals with  
20 Alzheimer's; and be it further

21       RESOLVED, That the Task Force shall receive the  
22 assistance of legislative staff, may employ skilled experts  
23 with the approval of the President of the Senate, and shall  
24 report its findings to the General Assembly on or before  
25 December 1, 2002.