

1 HJR162
2 218804-1
3 By Representative Hall
4 RFD: Rules
5 First Read: 15-MAR-22

REAUTHORIZING THE ALABAMA ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE TASK
FORCE.

WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease, a progressive neurodegenerative brain disorder, tragically robs individuals of their memory and leads to progressive mental and physical impairments; and

WHEREAS, there are no known proven treatments to prevent, cure, or even delay the onset or slow the progression of Alzheimer's disease; and

WHEREAS, an estimated 96,000 Alabamians 65 years of age and older have Alzheimer's disease, and currently 206,000 Alabamians are designated as caregivers; and

WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is the sixth leading cause of death in the State of Alabama; and

WHEREAS, according to the Alzheimer's Association Facts and Figures Report, the direct costs to American citizens to care for those with Alzheimer's is valued at \$355 billion, and more than 11 million caregivers provided over 15 billion hours of unpaid care for those with Alzheimer's and

1 other dementias in 2020; in Alabama, 206,000 family members
2 and friends cared for people with Alzheimer's and other
3 dementias, providing 2,225 million hours of unpaid care with
4 the annual value of this caregiving totaling to \$2.8 billion;
5 and

6 WHEREAS, the prevalence of Alzheimer's and other
7 dementias is anticipated to increase by nearly 15 percent
8 during the next three years; and

9 WHEREAS, Alzheimer's and other dementias are not
10 part of normal aging, and they have made severe impact across
11 many state agencies, including, but not limited to, Medicaid,
12 public health, the workforce, facility, licensing, aging, and
13 others; and

14 WHEREAS, the State of Alabama recognizes the need to
15 have a clear and coordinated approach to address Alzheimer's
16 disease and other dementias; and

17 WHEREAS, in May 2012, the Alabama Alzheimer's
18 Disease Task Force was established in House Joint Resolution
19 433 and was charged with assessing the impact of Alzheimer's
20 disease, examining the existing service delivery system, and
21 developing strategies to respond to this crisis within the
22 state; the Task Force included representatives from state
23 agencies, health care organizations, and community
24 organizations, and also included state legislators,
25 caregivers, researchers, and individuals living with the
26 disease, resulting in the State Plan for Alzheimer's Disease

1 and Other Related Dementias in Alabama, published in April
2 2015; and

3 WHEREAS, the State of Alabama has not published a
4 State Alzheimer's and Disease Plan since 2015 and recognizes
5 the need to update the existing state plan; now therefore,

6 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH
7 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we join together to recommend
8 that the Alabama Alzheimer's Disease Task Force be
9 reauthorized and begin meeting for the purposes of updating
10 the Alzheimer's State Plan, prioritizing the outstanding
11 recommendations, developing policy recommendations on how the
12 state can prepare the health care workforce to meet the rising
13 need for dementia care, improving the access and quality of
14 dementia care, increasing public awareness about Alzheimer's
15 disease and other dementias, and building support for family
16 caregivers of individuals with dementia.