

R E S O L U T I O N

1           WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease (AD) is a progressive and  
2 irreversible brain disorder characterized by a steady decline in  
3 cognitive, behavioral, and physical abilities severe enough to  
4 interfere with daily life; and

5           WHEREAS, Disease progression and physical manifestations  
6 include loss of strength and balance, the inability to perform  
7 simple tasks and physical activities, and incontinence; as more of  
8 the brain is affected, areas that control basic life functions like  
9 swallowing and breathing become irreversibly damaged, leading to  
10 death; and

11           WHEREAS, AD is the seventh leading cause of death in the  
12 United States and has an economic burden that exceeds \$182 billion  
13 annually; 5.4 million people in the United States have AD,  
14 including approximately 340,000 Texans; Texas ranks third in the  
15 number of AD cases and second in the number of AD deaths; a new  
16 person develops AD every 69 seconds, and current projections  
17 indicate that this rate will increase to one new case every 33  
18 seconds by 2050; and

19           WHEREAS, Other causes of death have been declining in recent  
20 years, but those due to AD have risen; between 2000 and 2006, deaths  
21 from heart disease, stroke, and prostate cancer declined by 12  
22 percent, 18 percent, and 14 percent, respectively, while deaths  
23 attributable to AD increased by 47 percent; by 2050, AD is expected  
24 to strike nearly a million additional persons per year in the United

1 States and affect an estimated 11 to 16 million Americans; and

2 WHEREAS, Individuals providing care for AD patients in Texas  
3 grew from 690,058 to 852,820 between 2005 and 2009, with most of  
4 these being unpaid family members; the estimated total value of  
5 this unpaid care in Texas increased from \$5.8 billion in 2005 to  
6 \$11.2 billion in 2009, the second highest in the nation; Texas  
7 businesses are also impacted by AD, losing over \$14 billion  
8 annually in health care costs and lost productivity; and

9 WHEREAS, There is a great need for Texas to develop  
10 infrastructure and capability commensurate with the state's  
11 increasing burden imposed by AD; in 2005, recognizing Texas' AD  
12 challenge, the legislature began making investments in AD research,  
13 and at the close of the 2009-2011 biennium, nearly \$12.5 million  
14 will have been put toward this cause; now, therefore, be it

15 RESOLVED, That the House of Representatives of the 82nd Texas  
16 Legislature hereby request the lieutenant governor and the speaker  
17 of the house of representatives to create a joint interim committee  
18 to study the overall economic and systemic impact of Alzheimer's  
19 disease through 2017, including an inventory of public and private  
20 infrastructure and capacity for addressing the challenges of AD;  
21 and, be it further

22 RESOLVED, That the study identify funds and systems to  
23 support and expand ongoing statewide disease-specific strategic  
24 planning through the Texas Department of State Health Services and  
25 also identify funds and systems available to support and expand  
26 activities of the Texas Alzheimer's Research Consortium; and, be it  
27 further

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1           RESOLVED, That the committee's proceedings and operations be  
2 governed by such general rules and policies for joint interim  
3 committees as the 82nd Legislature may adopt.

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Speaker of the House

I certify that H.R. No. 1978 was adopted by the House on May 23, 2011, by the following vote: Yeas 142, Nays 0, 1 present, not voting.

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Chief Clerk of the House