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ACR-82 Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month and The Longest Day. (2019-2020)

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Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 82

CHAPTER 94

Relative to Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month and The Longest Day.

[Filed with Secretary of State June 25, 2019.]

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

ACR 82, Aguiar-Curry. Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month and The Longest Day.

This measure would recognize the month of June 2019 as Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month and Friday, June 21, 2019, as The Longest Day, and would urge all Californians to commemorate the month of June 2019 as Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month.

Fiscal Committee: no

WHEREAS, The month of June 2019 has been declared Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month to help educate the public on this debilitating disease and the need to increase efforts to combat its human and economic costs; and

WHEREAS, The summer solstice, June 21, 2019, has been declared The Longest Day, with teams around the world coming together to honor the strength, passion, and endurance of people facing Alzheimer's disease with a day of activity and advocacy; and

WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease, a progressive neurodegenerative brain disorder, tragically robs individuals of their memories and leads to cognitive decline resulting in functional, emotional, and behavioral impairment; and

WHEREAS, California has 670,000 residents living with Alzheimer's disease, more than any other state in the nation, and the state's population of residents living with Alzheimer's disease is projected to grow by 25 percent in the next decade, devastating 840,000 individuals by 2025; and

WHEREAS, California's Medi-Cal program will spend \$3,900,000,000 this year on skilled nursing care and home and community-based supports for beneficiaries living with Alzheimer's disease, and that amount is expected to climb 32 percent between 2019 and 2025; and

WHEREAS, Californians with dementia visit emergency departments more than 900,000 times per year and are readmitted to the hospital one out of five times after discharge; and

WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is always fatal, and it is the third leading cause of death in California today; and

WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is a family disease impacting 1,600,000 California spouses, partners, children, siblings, grandchildren, and other relatives who provide unpaid assistance to a loved one; and

WHEREAS, California caregivers devote 1,800,000,000 hours of unpaid assistance to family members valued at over \$23,000,000,000 in nongovernment financial support; and

WHEREAS, California's 2015 Behavioral Risk Factor Surveillance System survey found that 27.1 percent of people with memory problems in California live alone; and

WHEREAS, African Americans, Latinx, and women are disproportionately impacted by Alzheimer's disease and have higher prevalence rates than the general population; and

WHEREAS, Disparities in detection and diagnosis persist resulting in less than 50 percent of individuals affected by the disease receiving a formal diagnosis that is disclosed to them by a clinician and documented in their medical record; and

WHEREAS, On average, a person with Alzheimer's disease lives 4 to 8 years after diagnosis, but may live as long as 20 years, depending on other factors; and

WHEREAS, Age is the greatest risk factor for Alzheimer's disease, which has no known cause, cure, or prevention; and

WHEREAS, Californians invest in Alzheimer's research through the voluntary tax check-off fund and have raised more than \$25,000,000 since its inception for research into treatments to slow the progression of or cure the disease; and

WHEREAS, Individuals living with Alzheimer's disease and their caregivers need acknowledgment, support, and services to meet their needs over the lengthy progression of Alzheimer's disease and related dementias; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Assembly of the State of California, the Senate thereof concurring, That the Legislature recognizes June 2019 as Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month and Friday, June 21, 2019, as The Longest Day, and urges all Californians to commemorate the month of June 2019 as Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month; and be it further

Resolved, That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies of this resolution to the author for appropriate distribution.