

A JOINT RESOLUTION directing the Kentucky Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Advisory Council and the Office on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders to assess the current and future impact of Alzheimer's disease in Kentucky, to examine the existing services and resources addressing the needs of persons with Alzheimer's disease and their families and caregivers, and to develop a strategy to mobilize a state response to this public health crisis.

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

WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is accompanied by memory loss, poor judgment, changes in personality and behavior, and a tendency to wander resulting in an increased risk for accidental injury, getting lost, abuse, neglect, and exploitation of afflicted persons; and

WHEREAS, over 74,000 people in Kentucky are afflicted with Alzheimer's disease or a related dementia including one in ten people over the age of 65 years and nearly one-half of all persons over the age of 85 years; and

WHEREAS, the greatest risk factor for Alzheimer's disease is increasing age. More than 90 percent of Alzheimer's cases develop in people older than 65 years; and

WHEREAS, the number of persons in Kentucky with Alzheimer's disease is expected to rise to over 97,000 by 2025 as the baby boom generation enters the age of greatest risk for the disease; and

WHEREAS, a person with Alzheimer's disease may live an average of eight years and up to 20 years after diagnosis; and

WHEREAS, the majority of persons with Alzheimer's disease are cared for by family and friends at home; and

WHEREAS, caregivers of persons with Alzheimer's disease are prone to high levels of stress, depression, and health problems; and

WHEREAS, by 2010, Medicare costs for beneficiaries with Alzheimer's disease are expected to increase by 75 percent and Medicaid costs for residential dementia care are expected to increase by 14 percent; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of Kentucky has recently undertaken the Kentucky Elder Readiness Initiative (KERI) to examine its ability to meet the needs of a rapidly aging population and the Long Term Living Initiative to examine Medicaid and continuum of care services; and

WHEREAS, the Commonwealth needs to assess the current and future impact of Alzheimer's disease on Kentuckians and state systems, programs, and services to ensure an integrated, comprehensive, coordinated, and up-to-date strategy to address the needs of this growing segment of Kentucky's population; and

WHEREAS, the General Assembly established the Office on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders and the Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Advisory Council within the Cabinet for Health and Family Services; and

WHEREAS, the Office and Council are charged with overseeing policy and services affecting persons with dementia, their families, and caregivers, recommending delivery of services in the most effective and efficient manner possible, assisting with the dissemination of program and educational materials, promoting public and professional awareness and education of dementia, improving access to needed services and programs, and enhancing the quality of life for persons affected by Alzheimer's; and

WHEREAS, state programs, resources, information, and services serving this population are fragmented and many are out-dated;

NOW, THEREFORE,

Be it resolved by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:

- 1 Section 1. The Cabinet for Health and Family Services shall direct the Kentucky
- 2 Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Advisory Council and the Office on
- 3 Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders to conduct a study that assesses the current

- 1 and future impact of Alzheimer's disease in Kentucky, examines the existing services and
2 resources addresses the needs of persons with Alzheimer's disease and their families and
3 caregivers, and identifies a strategy to mobilize a state response. The study shall include
4 an assessment and examination of:
- 5 (1) Trends in the size of the Alzheimer's disease population and its needs, including the
6 changing population with dementia, including but not limited to:
 - 7 (a) The role of the state in long-term care, family caregiver support and assistance
8 to persons with early-stage and early-onset Alzheimer's disease; and
 - 9 (b) State policy regarding persons with Alzheimer's disease and developmental
10 disabilities;
 - 11 (2) Existing services, resources, and capacity, including but not limited to:
 - 12 (a) Type, cost, and availability of dementia services;
 - 13 (b) The capacity of public safety and law enforcement to respond to persons with
14 Alzheimer's disease;
 - 15 (c) The availability of home and community-based resources for persons with
16 Alzheimer's disease and respite care to assist families;
 - 17 (d) The inventory of long-term care special dementia care units;
 - 18 (e) The adequacy and appropriateness of geriatric-psychiatric units for persons
19 with behavior disorders associated with Alzheimer's disease and related
20 dementia;
 - 21 (f) The assisted living residential options for persons with dementia; and
 - 22 (h) The state support of Alzheimer's disease research through Kentucky
23 universities and other resources; and
 - 24 (3) The needed state policies and response, including but not limited to
25 recommendations for a strategy to clear and coordinated services and support to
26 persons and families living with Alzheimer's disease and related disorders and ways
27 to address any identified gaps in service.

1 Section 2. The Kentucky Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders Advisory
2 Council and the Office on Alzheimer's Disease and Related Disorders shall submit a
3 report and recommendations for responding to the findings of the examination outlined in
4 Section 1 of this Act to the Kentucky General Assembly, LRC, and the Office of the
5 Governor no later than January 1, 2008.
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