

Recognizing November As The National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month

The Health Committee (Chairman R.S. Parete and Legislators Liepmann, Sheeley, Stoeckeler, Terpening, Busick and Roberti) and Legislators Bartels, Berardi, Bischoff, Cahill, Dart, Distel, Donaldson, Gregorius, Kraft, Liepmann, Lomita, Loughran, R.A. Parete, R.S. Parete, Provenzano, Rodriguez, Shapiro, Sheeley, Stoeckeler, Terpening and Zimet offer the following:

WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is a progressive brain disorder that gradually destroys a person's memory and ability to learn, reason, make judgments, communicate and carry out daily activities, and

WHEREAS, as Alzheimer's progresses, individuals may also experience changes in personality and behavior, such as anxiety, suspiciousness or agitation, as well as delusions or hallucinations, and

WHEREAS, with 14 million people expected to develop Alzheimer's disease by the middle of the 21st century, the demand for long-term care will explode, and

WHEREAS, although there is currently no cure for Alzheimer's, new treatments are on the horizon as a result of accelerating insight into the biology of the disease. Research has also shown that effective care and support can improve quality of life for individuals and their caregivers over the course of the disease from diagnosis to the end of life, and

WHEREAS, while scientists know Alzheimer's disease involves progressive brain cell failure, they have not yet identified any single reason why cells fail. However, they have identified certain risk factors that increase the likelihood of developing Alzheimer's, and

WHEREAS, an estimated 4.5 million Americans have Alzheimer's disease. The number of Americans with Alzheimer's has more than doubled since 1980, and

WHEREAS, the number of Americans with Alzheimer's disease will continue to grow – by 2050 the number of individuals with Alzheimer's could range from 11.3 million to 16 million. Finding a treatment that could delay onset by five years could reduce the number of individuals with Alzheimer's disease by nearly 50 percent after 50 years, and

WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease costs American business \$61 billion a year, according to a report commissioned by the Alzheimer's Association. Of that figure, \$24.6 billion covers Alzheimer health care and \$36.5 billion covers costs related to caregivers of individuals with Alzheimer's, including lost productivity, absenteeism and worker replacement.

Resolution No. 394 November 8, 2006

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RESOLVED, the Ulster County Legislature recognizes the Month of November as the National Alzheimer's Disease Awareness Month, and

FURTHER RESOLVED, that the Clerk of the Ulster County Legislature shall forward copies of this resolution to President George W. Bush, Governor George E. Pataki, Comptroller Alan Hevesi, United States Senators Hillary Rodham Clinton and Charles Schumer, United States Congressman Maurice Hinchey, Senate Majority Leader Joseph Bruno, Senate Minority Leader David A. Paterson, Assembly Speaker Sheldon Silver, Assembly Majority Leader Paul A. Tokasz, Assembly Minority Leader James N. Tedisco, New York State Senators John J. Bonacic and William J. Larkin, Jr., New York State Assemblymen Kevin A. Cahill, Clifford W. Crouch, Daniel L. Hooker and Thomas Kirwan, the National Association of Counties, the New York State Association of Counties, Ulster County Alzheimer's Association, the New York State Alzheimer's Association, The Coalition of New York State Alzheimer's Association Chapters and the New York State Office for the Aging,

and moves its adoption.

ADOPTED BY THE FOLLOWING VOTE:

AYES: 30 NOES: 0
(Absent: Legislators Alfonso, Every and Felicello)

FINANCIAL IMPACT:
NONE