



National Lieutenant Governors Association

1 **Resolution Recognizing Alzheimer’s Disease as a Public Health Crisis Impacting**
2 **the Nation’s Health Care Infrastructure**

3 **WHEREAS**, Alzheimer's is a type of dementia that causes problems with memory, thinking and behavior with
4 symptoms that usually develop slowly and get worse over time, becoming severe enough to interfere with daily
5 tasks; and

6 **WHEREAS**, according to the Alzheimer’s Association¹, in 2018 there are 5.7 million Americans living with
7 Alzheimer’s and by 2050 this number is expected to rise to nearly 14 million; and

8 **WHEREAS**, it is estimated that 16.1 million friends and family members of individuals with Alzheimer’s and
9 other dementias will provide 18.4 billion hours of unpaid care in 2018, valued at more than \$232 billion; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the direct costs to American society of caring for those with Alzheimer's will total an estimated
11 \$277 billion in 2018, including \$186 billion in Medicare and Medicaid payments; and

12 **WHEREAS**, average per person Medicaid payments for a senior citizen with Alzheimer’s and other dementias
13 are nearly 19 times higher than for seniors without these conditions; and

14 **WHEREAS**, of the total lifetime cost of caring for someone with dementia, 70 percent is borne by families -
15 either through out-of-pocket health and long-term care expenses or from the value of unpaid care; and

16 **WHEREAS**, early diagnosis of Alzheimer's provides a number of important benefits to diagnosed individuals,
17 their caregivers and loved ones, as well as society as a whole and it is estimated that early and accurate
18 diagnosis could save up to \$7.9 trillion in medical and care costs; and

19 **WHEREAS**, Alzheimer’s disease, which currently has no cure, is the sixth leading cause of death in adults age
20 eighteen or older in the U.S.; and

21 **WHEREAS**, since the onset of Alzheimer's disease cannot yet be stopped or reversed, early detection and
22 diagnosis allows people with dementia and their families not only a better chance of receiving and benefiting
23 from treatment, care, and support services, but also more time to put legal, financial, and advance directives in
24 place for the future; and

¹ Alzheimer’s Association, *2018 Alzheimer’s Disease Facts and Figures Annual Report*, available at www.alz.org/facts.



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25 **WHEREAS**, state, local and tribal departments of health have the important responsibility of promoting and
26 encouraging healthy behaviors among the general public, increasing early detection and diagnosis of disease
27 and disability, reducing risk of future illness and injury, educating the health care workforce, monitoring and
28 evaluating the health of the state, and addressing the needs of caregivers; and

29 **WHEREAS**, Alzheimer's disease has historically been seen as an aging issue, Alzheimer's is also a public
30 health issue because the burden to society is large, the impact is major, and there are ways to intervene
31 throughout the lifespan.

32 **NOW, THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that the National Lieutenant Governors Association recognizes
33 Alzheimer's disease as an urgent public health crisis impacting the nation's health care infrastructure,
34 necessitating implementation of expert guidance in *Healthy Brain Initiative: State and Local Public Health*
35 *Partnerships to Address Dementia, The 2018-2023 Road Map*², from the Centers for Disease Control and
36 Prevention; and

37 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the National Lieutenant Governors Association encourages its members
38 to promote policies that support investment in a nationwide public health response to this crisis to reduce risk
39 for cognitive decline, optimize the health, well-being, and functioning of people living with dementia and their
40 caregivers, and mitigate associated costs for individuals and for the government by encouraging public health
41 departments to implement effective Alzheimer's interventions such as increasing early detection and diagnosis,
42 reducing risk and preventing avoidable hospitalizations.

ADOPTED, this 29th day of June, 2018.

Sponsors: Lt. Governor Kevin Bryant (R – South Carolina), Lt. Governor Mike Cooney (D – Montana), Lt. Governor Suzanne Crouch (R – Indiana), Lt. Governor Justin Fairfax (D – Virginia), Lt. Governor Michelle Fischbach (R – Minnesota), Lt. Governor Adam Gregg (R – Iowa), Lt. Governor Tim Griffin (R – Arkansas), Lt. Governor Bethany Hall-Long (D – Delaware), Lt. Governor Kathy Hochul (D – New York), Lt. Governor Mike Kehoe (R – Missouri), Lt. Governor Dan McKee (D – Rhode Island), Lt. Governor Randy McNally (R – Tennessee), Lt. Governor Matt Michels (R – South Dakota), Lt. Governor Billy Nungesser (R – Louisiana), Lt. Governor John Sanchez (R – New Mexico), Lt. Governor Brent Sanford (R – North Dakota), Lt. Governor Nancy Wyman (D – Connecticut), Lt. Governor David Zuckerman (D – Vermont)

² 2018-2023 report to be released in July, 2013-2018 report available at <https://alz.org/publichealth/road-map.asp>.