

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 2—SENATOR HARDY

FEBRUARY 19, 2015

Referred to Committee on Health and Human Services

SUMMARY—Encourages education of medical care providers and first responders regarding caring for persons with Alzheimer’s disease. (BDR R-237)

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EXPLANATION – Matter in *bolded italics* is new; matter between brackets ~~omitted material~~ is material to be omitted.

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Encouraging certain entities to approve and provide educational programs relating to caring for persons with Alzheimer’s disease and other forms of dementia.

1 WHEREAS, Alzheimer’s disease is a progressive, degenerative  
2 brain disorder characterized by memory loss, language deterioration,  
3 poor judgment and indifferent attitude, but preserved motor  
4 function; and

5 WHEREAS, Alzheimer’s disease afflicts one out of every nine  
6 Americans over 65 years of age and is the sixth leading cause of  
7 death in the United States; and

8 WHEREAS, The number of Americans with Alzheimer’s disease  
9 and other dementias is expected to grow each year as the size and  
10 proportion of Americans over 65 years of age continues to increase;  
11 and

12 WHEREAS, The rapid rise in persons diagnosed with  
13 Alzheimer’s disease is already evident and is especially dramatic in  
14 Nevada, which in 2014 had an estimated 37,000 of its residents  
15 suffering from this debilitating affliction; and

16 WHEREAS, It is projected that by 2025 the number of residents  
17 of this State suffering from Alzheimer’s disease will increase by 73  
18 percent to over 64,000 people; and

19 WHEREAS, Most persons with Alzheimer’s disease will survive  
20 for 4 to 8 years after diagnosis and may live as long as 20 years after  
21 the onset of symptoms; and

22 WHEREAS, In response to this growing crisis, the members of  
23 the 76th Session of the Nevada State Legislature adopted Assembly



1 Concurrent Resolution No. 10 directing the Legislative Committee  
2 on Health Care to create a task force to develop a state plan to  
3 address Alzheimer's disease; and

4 WHEREAS, In January 2013, the Legislative Committee on  
5 Health Care delivered to the 77th Session of the Nevada Legislature  
6 a copy of the Nevada State Plan to Address Alzheimer's Disease;  
7 and

8 WHEREAS, The State Plan identified a need to strengthen the  
9 multidisciplinary workforce that cares for persons with Alzheimer's  
10 disease and other dementias and maintain a dementia-competent  
11 workforce in Nevada; and

12 WHEREAS, The State Plan identified several educational  
13 challenges to strengthening and maintaining the workforce that  
14 cares for persons with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias in  
15 this State and proposed recommendations to address these  
16 challenges; now, therefore, be it

17 RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE  
18 ASSEMBLY CONCURRING, That the members of the 78th Session of  
19 the Nevada State Legislature hereby encourage the Board of  
20 Medical Examiners, the State Board of Osteopathic Medicine, the  
21 State Board of Nursing, professional associations of health care  
22 providers and educational institutions to incentivize and promote  
23 awareness and education of health care providers by:

24 1. Approving continuing education programs that provide  
25 primary care physicians and other allied health care professionals  
26 with ongoing education and training about recent developments,  
27 research and treatments of Alzheimer's disease and other forms of  
28 dementia;

29 2. Encouraging primary care physicians to refer persons with  
30 cognitive deficits for specialized cognitive testing when appropriate;  
31 and

32 3. Encouraging primary care physicians to refer persons with  
33 dementia and their families to dementia-related community  
34 resources and supportive programs; and be it further

35 RESOLVED, That the members of the 78th Session of the Nevada  
36 State Legislature hereby encourage schools in Nevada with  
37 programs in nursing and other health care professions to ensure that  
38 the programs include specific training regarding Alzheimer's  
39 disease and other forms of dementia in their curriculum and expand  
40 related continuing education opportunities for nurses and other  
41 health care professionals in the acute care setting; and be it further

42 RESOLVED, That the members of the 78th Session of the Nevada  
43 State Legislature hereby encourage the promotion of training and  
44 educational opportunities that are conducted by or in consultation  
45 with the Division of Public and Behavioral Health of the



1 Department of Health and Human Services and related to  
2 Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia for all levels of  
3 medical personnel in a hospital, including, without limitation,  
4 emergency-room personnel and others responsible for admission  
5 and discharge; and be it further

6 RESOLVED, That the members of the 78th Session of the Nevada  
7 State Legislature hereby encourage first responders and law  
8 enforcement and fire department personnel to attend an amount and  
9 type of training adequate to help them assess and learn how to  
10 respond to people with Alzheimer's disease and other forms of  
11 dementia; and be it further

12 RESOLVED, That the Secretary of the Senate prepare and  
13 transmit a copy of this resolution to the Governor, each member of  
14 the Board of Medical Examiners, each member of the State Board of  
15 Osteopathic Medicine, each member of the State Board of Nursing,  
16 each member of the Board of Regents of the University of Nevada,  
17 the dean or provost of each school of medicine or nursing located in  
18 this State, and the Director of the Department of Public Safety and  
19 the State Fire Marshal for distribution to each fire chief, chief of  
20 police and sheriff in this State, and to the Administrator of the  
21 Division of Public and Behavioral Health of the Department of  
22 Health and Human Services.

