

Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 2—Senator Hardy

FILE NUMBER.....

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, In response to this growing crisis, the members of the 76th Session of the Nevada State Legislature adopted Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 10 directing the Legislative Committee on Health Care to create a task force to develop a state plan to address Alzheimer’s disease; and

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

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

WHEREAS, The State Plan identified several educational challenges to strengthening and maintaining the workforce that



cares for persons with Alzheimer's disease and other dementias in this State and proposed recommendations to address these challenges; now, therefore, be it

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

1. Approving or requiring, as applicable, continuing education programs that provide primary care physicians and other allied health care professionals with ongoing education and training about recent developments, research and treatments of Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia;

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

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

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

RESOLVED, That the members of the 78th Session of the Nevada State Legislature hereby encourage the promotion of training and educational opportunities that are conducted by or in consultation with the Division of Public and Behavioral Health of the Department of Health and Human Services and related to Alzheimer's disease and other forms of dementia for all levels of medical personnel in a hospital, including, without limitation, emergency-room personnel and others responsible for admission and discharge; and be it further

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



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

