

1 HJR46  
2 114246-2  
3 By Representatives DeMarco, Williams (J), McClurkin and  
4 Canfield  
5 RFD: Rules  
6 First Read: 13-AUG-09

1  
2  
3  
4  
5  
6  
7  
8  
9  
10  
11  
12  
13  
14  
15  
16  
17  
18  
19  
20  
21  
22  
23  
24  
25

ENROLLED, House Joint Resolution,  
                  URGING THE U.S. CONGRESS TO SUPPORT THE ALZHEIMER'S  
SOLUTIONS PROJECT.

                  WHEREAS, science has a lot to offer in lengthening  
lives, improving health and lowering costs, and as a nation we  
must accelerate and focus national efforts, re-engineer  
dementia care delivery, and ultimately prevent Alzheimer's  
Disease; and

                  WHEREAS, it is estimated that 90,000 Alabama  
citizens have Alzheimer's Disease and Alzheimer's is a family  
concern; over 177,000 friends and family in Alabama are  
struggling to be the caregivers of these individuals - if paid  
for their services the total costs would be estimated to be  
greater than \$1.5 billion; and

                  WHEREAS, every 70 seconds someone in our nation  
develops Alzheimer's Disease and by 2050, someone will develop  
Alzheimer's every 33 seconds and Alzheimer's is a growing  
epidemic:

                  (1) 5.3 million Americans currently suffer from  
Alzheimer's - one-in-eight Americans over 65 and almost  
one-in-two over 85.

                  (2) 10 million baby boomers will develop the  
disease.

1           (3) The CDC lists Alzheimer's Disease as the 6th  
2 leading cause of death.

3           (4) Today there is no cure, no disease-modifying  
4 treatment, and no prevention; and

5           WHEREAS, Alzheimer's places an enormous burden on  
6 families:

7           Alzheimer's is a family disease. 9,900,000  
8 caregivers provide 94 billion hours of uncompensated care per  
9 year.

10           Health care costs for people with Alzheimer's  
11 Disease are three times greater than for people with other  
12 diseases; and

13           WHEREAS, Alzheimer's places an enormous burden on  
14 taxpayers and our health system:

15           (1) In 2005, Medicare spent \$91 billion on  
16 beneficiaries with Alzheimer's and other dementias and is  
17 projected to spend \$189 billion by 2015.

18           (2) Given the present trends, Alzheimer's will cost  
19 Medicare and Medicaid a projected \$19.89 trillion between 2010  
20 and 2050.

21           (3) Because people tend to get Alzheimer's later in  
22 life, even a delay of onset has a significant effect in  
23 lowering costs. A five-year delay would save \$8.51 trillion  
24 over that same period; and

1           WHEREAS, today one in eight Americans over the age  
2 of 65 - 5.1 million people - suffer from Alzheimer's and  
3 projections show that as our population ages, the number of  
4 Alzheimer's cases could triple in little more than a  
5 generation, with anywhere between 11 and 16 million Americans  
6 suffering from the disease by 2050; and

7           WHEREAS, Alzheimer's Disease is about much more than  
8 numbers - it's about our fellow citizens, and the loss of  
9 their independence, their memory, and their identity and it's  
10 about American families watching their loved ones suffer; and

11           WHEREAS, we have progressed enough in our knowledge  
12 of the brain and how it works that, with the right resources  
13 and the right experts working together, we could see a  
14 fundamental breakthrough in Alzheimer's Disease within the  
15 next decade; and

16           WHEREAS, almost 200 leading Alzheimer's research  
17 scientists have endorsed the goal of developing the capability  
18 to prevent Alzheimer's by 2020 or 2025; and

19           WHEREAS, there is needed a national effort, modeled  
20 on the Apollo moon launch project or the Manhattan Project,  
21 called the Alzheimer's Solutions Project; and

22           WHEREAS, the Alzheimer's Solutions Project will  
23 resolve science-investment funding issues, workforce  
24 challenges, housing challenges, end-of-life complexities and  
25 reform government agencies that direct the resources that

1 impact the prevention and cure of this disease and the  
2 Alzheimer's Solutions Project is built on three key pillars:

3 (1) Prevent new cases of the disease. Even  
4 preventing the onset of the disease by a few years will yield  
5 enormous benefits.

6 (2) Take care of caregivers by reimbursing 20  
7 percent of health and social services.

8 (3) Make Alzheimer's a priority of Washington by  
9 establishing an Alzheimer's Solutions Project Office in the  
10 federal government; now therefore,

11 BE IT RESOLVED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF ALABAMA, BOTH  
12 HOUSES THEREOF CONCURRING, That we urge Congress to fully  
13 support the Alzheimer's Solutions Project and the specific  
14 recommendations of the policy proposals of the Alzheimer's  
15 Solutions Project.

16 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, That a copy of this  
17 resolution be forwarded to the United States Senate, the  
18 United States House of Representatives, and each member of the  
19 Alabama Congressional Delegation.

