

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 10–
Assemblywoman Smith

FILE NUMBER.....

ASSEMBLY CONCURRENT RESOLUTION—Directing the Legislative Committee on Health Care to create a task force to develop a state plan to address Alzheimer’s disease.

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, Approximately 5.4 million Americans now suffer from Alzheimer’s disease, including approximately one in every eight persons over 65 years of age and nearly half of those persons over 85 years of age; and

WHEREAS, The proportion of the country’s population that is over the age of 65 continues to rapidly increase and will escalate in coming years as the “Baby Boomer” generation ages, and at the current rate of incidence, the number of people aged 65 years and older with Alzheimer’s disease may rise to as high as 11 to 16 million by the year 2050, barring the development of medical breakthroughs; and

WHEREAS, This rapid rise is already evident, and is especially dramatic in Nevada, which has seen a 38 percent increase in its population of residents 65 years of age and older with Alzheimer’s disease between 2000 and 2010, and this population is expected to double between 2000 and 2025; and

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

WHEREAS, Nearly 15 million Americans provide unpaid care for a family member or friend who has Alzheimer’s disease or another form of dementia, with more than 60 percent of those caregivers rating the emotional stress of caregiving as high or very high and one-third reporting symptoms of depression; and

WHEREAS, At some point, an Alzheimer’s victim will require 24-hour care, including assistance with such daily activities as eating, grooming and toileting; and

WHEREAS, It has been estimated that expenses for the diagnosis, care and treatment of Americans with Alzheimer’s disease will amount to at least \$183 billion in 2011, with the expected costs of Alzheimer’s to Americans in 2050 totaling \$1.1 trillion in today’s dollars; and



WHEREAS, Alzheimer's disease is the sixth leading cause of death in the United States and the fifth leading cause of death for those aged 65 years and older, and it remains the only cause of death among the top 10 in the country without any known preventive measures or cure; and

WHEREAS, There is a compelling need in this State to prepare and implement strategies to reduce the impact of this heartbreaking disease on patients, caregivers and the economy and to forestall human and financial hardship of exceptional severity; now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED BY THE ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF NEVADA, THE SENATE CONCURRING, That the Legislative Committee on Health Care is hereby directed to create a task force to develop a state plan to address Alzheimer's disease; and be it further

RESOLVED, That to the extent that money is available, including, without limitation, money from gifts, grants and donations, the Legislative Committee on Health Care may fund the costs of the task force; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Legislative Committee on Health Care shall submit a report of the findings and plan developed by the task force and any recommendations for legislation to the 77th Session of the Nevada Legislature.

