

ACR-204

Alzheimer's & Brain
Awareness Month & The
Longest Day.



Prepared by the
ELDERLY CARE
EVERYWHERE POLICY
TEAM



ELDERLY CARE EVERYWHERE

Largest youth lobbying group for senior citizens and senior care in California.

Executive Summary

Assembly Concurrent Resolution No. 204 (ACR 204), introduced by Assembly Member Soria during the 2023-2024 Regular Session of the California Legislature, aims to declare June 2024 as Alzheimer's Disease and Brain Awareness Month and recognize June 20, 2024, as The Longest Day. This resolution seeks to raise awareness about Alzheimer's disease, educate the public, and increase efforts to combat its significant human and economic costs.

The resolution highlights the severe impact of Alzheimer's disease in California, where 720,000 residents live with the condition, more than in any other state. It underscores the urgency by noting that Alzheimer's was the second leading cause of death among Californians in 2022. Furthermore, the resolution draws attention to the projected dramatic increase in Alzheimer's cases over the next 20 years, with the number of Californians living with the disease expected to grow by 127%, disproportionately affecting communities of color.

ACR 204 emphasizes the burden on families and caregivers, noting that over 1.37 million Californians provide unpaid assistance to loved ones with Alzheimer's, amounting to approximately 1.8 billion hours of care valued at over \$44.2 billion. The resolution also highlights the frequent use of emergency services by individuals with dementia, who visit emergency departments nearly 1 million times annually and face high readmission rates.

The resolution calls attention to disparities in detection and diagnosis, with less than 50% of affected individuals receiving a formal diagnosis. It acknowledges that age is the greatest risk factor for Alzheimer's, a disease with no known cause, cure, or prevention. Despite these challenges, Californians have invested over \$25 million in Alzheimer's research through voluntary contributions, supporting efforts to slow the disease's progression and find a cure.

By officially declaring June 2024 as Alzheimer's Disease and Brain Awareness Month and recognizing The Longest Day, ACR 204 aims to honor the strength and resilience of those affected by Alzheimer's. It advocates for increased public awareness, support for caregivers, and enhanced research efforts. The resolution urges all Californians to commemorate the month and participate in activities that raise awareness and support for Alzheimer's disease.

In summary, ACR 204 is a vital resolution that raises awareness about the growing impact of Alzheimer's disease and emphasizes the need for public education, support for caregivers, and continued investment in research. This recognition is crucial as California prepares for a substantial increase in its population living with Alzheimer's, ensuring that those affected receive the acknowledgment and support they need.



ELDERLY CARE EVERYWHERE

Largest youth lobbying group for senior citizens and senior care in California.

Our Position

Elderly Care Everywhere strongly supports Assembly Concurrent Resolution 204 (ACR 204), introduced by Assembly Member Soria. This resolution designates June 2024 as Alzheimer's Disease and Brain Awareness Month and recognizes June 20, 2024, as The Longest Day. It urges Californians to raise awareness and advocate for those affected by Alzheimer's disease, a critical health issue that impacts hundreds of thousands across our state.

ACR 204 is a commendable step in acknowledging the significant challenges faced by individuals living with Alzheimer's and their caregivers. By focusing on a month of awareness and a day of global advocacy, this resolution emphasizes the need for enhanced public understanding and support for Alzheimer's research and care. This initiative aligns perfectly with our mission to advocate for the health and welfare of the elderly and those affected by debilitating diseases.

The resolution highlights the disproportionate impact of Alzheimer's on communities of color and the substantial economic and emotional toll it places on families and caregivers in California. This focus on the broad and diverse impact of the disease underscores the urgency of addressing Alzheimer's with inclusive and comprehensive health strategies.

Furthermore, ACR 204's recognition of the extensive contribution of caregivers, who provide billions of dollars' worth of unpaid assistance, echoes our commitment to supporting these vital members of our communities. This resolution not only raises awareness but also honors the resilience and strength of those living with Alzheimer's and their families.

By supporting ACR 204, we advocate for enhanced public and private efforts to address Alzheimer's disease through research, support services, and community engagement. This resolution fosters a broader understanding of Alzheimer's and its effects, promoting a more informed and compassionate approach to its challenges. We believe that recognizing the significant needs of the Alzheimer's community will lead to more effective policies and a better quality of life for all affected individuals.

Elderly Care Everywhere endorses ACR 204, advocating for a future where individuals with Alzheimer's disease receive the respect, support, and comprehensive care they deserve, and where caregivers are acknowledged and supported. We urge all stakeholders to join us in supporting this crucial legislation, reaffirming our collective commitment to addressing the ongoing impact of Alzheimer's disease in California.



ELDERLY CARE EVERYWHERE

Largest youth lobbying group for senior citizens and senior care in California.

Letter of Support for ACR-204

June 1, 2024

The Honorable Blanca Pacheco, Chair
Assembly Rules Committee
1021 O Street, Suite 4650
Sacramento, CA 95814

Re: Support for ACR 204

Dear Assembly Member Pacheco and Members of the Assembly Rules Committee,

On behalf of Elderly Care Everywhere, I am writing to express our strong support for ACR 204, which proclaims June 2024 as Alzheimer's Disease and Brain Awareness Month and June 21, 2024, as The Longest Day in California. This resolution is crucial for raising awareness about Alzheimer's disease and other dementias, which significantly impact the lives of many senior citizens and their families across our state.

Alzheimer's disease is a growing public health concern, with an estimated 690,000 Californians aged 65 and older living with this debilitating condition. As the population ages, this number is expected to rise, placing increasing demands on healthcare systems, caregivers, and support services. ACR 204 plays a vital role in highlighting the need for greater public awareness, research funding, and community support to address the challenges posed by Alzheimer's disease.

The Longest Day, held on the summer solstice, symbolizes the challenging journey of those with Alzheimer's and their caregivers. By recognizing this day, ACR 204 encourages community engagement and support, fostering a sense of solidarity and commitment to finding a cure and improving the quality of life for those affected.

Raising awareness through ACR 204 will also promote early diagnosis and intervention, which can improve outcomes and better manage the disease. It underscores the importance of supporting caregivers, often family members, and the need for comprehensive services and resources to aid them in their crucial role. We strongly urge you to support ACR 204, which will enhance public awareness and support for Alzheimer's disease and brain health, ultimately benefiting California's senior citizens and their families.

Sincerely,
Aakrisht Mehra
Founder/CEO
Elderly Care Everywhere



ELDERLY CARE EVERYWHERE

Largest youth lobbying group for senior citizens and senior care in California.

About Elderly Care Everywhere

Elderly Care Everywhere is a transformative nonprofit organization dedicated to improving the lives of senior citizens. Since its inception, the organization has positively impacted over 40,000 seniors through a variety of programs aimed at enhancing their quality of life.

Elderly Care Everywhere has been instrumental in alleviating hundreds of thousands of dollars in medical debt, ensuring that seniors have access to the healthcare they need without the burden of financial stress. With more than 20 chapters across the United States, the organization extends its reach and resources to numerous communities, providing support and advocacy on a national scale.

Beyond U.S. borders, Elderly Care Everywhere has established flood relief camps in India, showcasing its commitment to global humanitarian efforts. The organization's impactful work has been recognized by the government of New Delhi, further highlighting its significant contributions to senior care and welfare. Through these efforts, Elderly Care Everywhere continues to lead the way in senior advocacy, ensuring that the elderly are treated with dignity and respect worldwide.

Thank you for your support of ACR-204. If you have any questions, feel free to email us at connect@elderlycareeverywhere.org