

STATE OF OKLAHOMA

2nd Session of the 50th Legislature (2006)

SENATE
RESOLUTION 84

By: Lerblance

AS INTRODUCED

A Resolution memorializing Congress to resist cuts in Alzheimer's disease research; and directing distribution.

WHEREAS, approximately 4.5 million Americans suffer from Alzheimer's Disease, a progressive degenerative disease of the brain that destroys its victims' lives and devastates the families who provide for their care. Because a large segment of the population is reaching the age when Alzheimer's strikes, the disease is on the verge of exploding and the number of sufferers could reach 16 million by mid-century; and

WHEREAS, more research is needed. However, President Bush's proposed budget would cut appropriation for research through the National Institutes of Health. President Bush's proposed budget would reduce research back to the pre-2004 level, although the national Alzheimer's Association says \$1 billion a year is needed for research. The Bush budget proposals would also cut four vital Alzheimer's programs, one of which is called "Safe Return" which protects and returns home safely Alzheimer's sufferers who have wandered away; and

WHEREAS, money spent on Alzheimer's research and related programs will be repaid many times over. If the disease is not checked, Medicare costs related to it will double to \$50 billion within ten years. Medicaid costs are estimated to increase 80% to \$33 billion. Alzheimer's research has the potential to save millions of lives, billions of dollars, and untold family grief.

NOW, THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED BY THE SENATE OF THE 2ND SESSION
OF THE 50TH OKLAHOMA LEGISLATURE:

THAT the Oklahoma State Senate memorializes Congress to resist
all efforts of President Bush to cut research funding for
Alzheimer's disease and, if possible, to increase research funding.

THAT a copy of this resolution be distributed to Oklahoma's
Congressional Delegation, the Oklahoma/Arkansas Alzheimer's
Association, and the Oklahoma Medical Research Foundation.

50-2-3679

THC

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